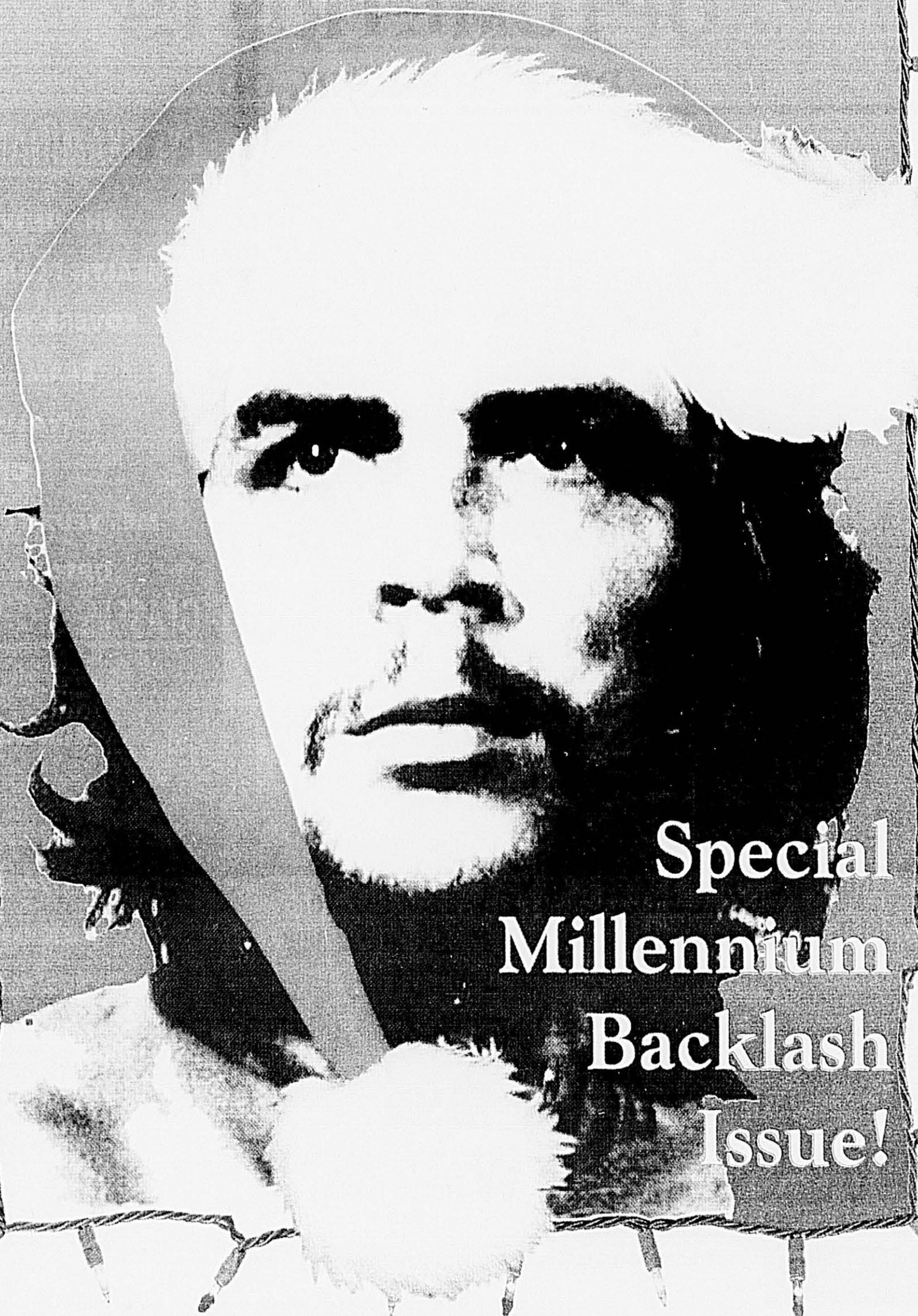


THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 89, Issue 35 December 2, 1999
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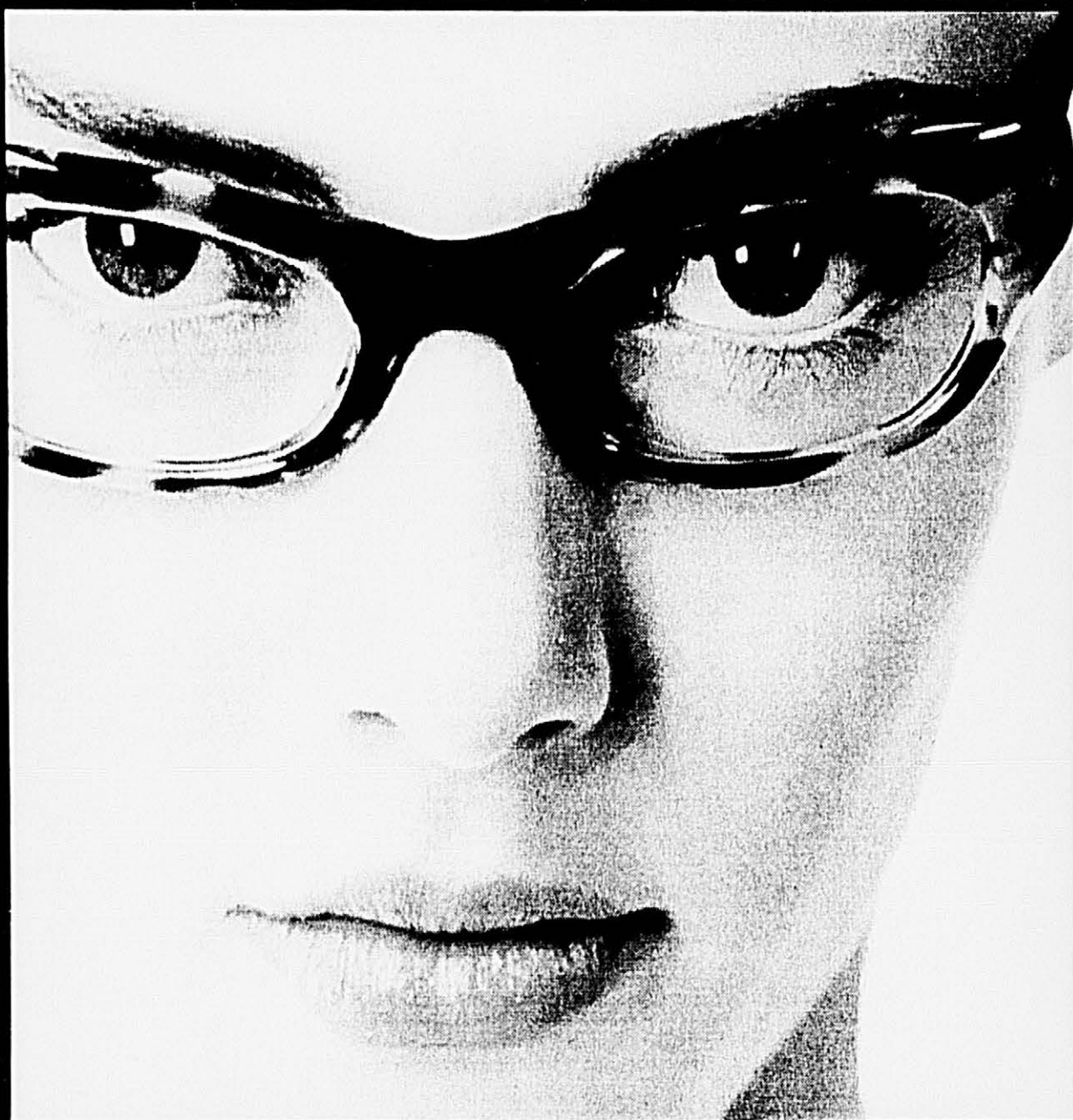
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Thousands of Quebec Students Left Out of Millennium Money

Student groups, Scholarship Foundation frustrated as Legault refuses to sign agreement

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

This January, the Millennium Scholarship Foundation (MSF) will be giving \$3000 scholarships to 75,000 of Canada's neediest students. But after almost a year of bureaucratic infighting, the Foundation has been unable to reach an deal with the Quebec government over the terms of the distribution of the money, and as it stands now, Quebec students will not be receiving scholarships alongside other Canadians.

The MSF, created by the federal government in 1998 with a \$2.5 billion endowment, has reached agreements with the other Canadian provinces to use their existing needs assessment programs to administer the distribution of funds. Quebec is slated to receive 70\$ million a year from the foundation, half of which is to be handed over to students, with the other half going to educational infrastructure.

But Quebec Education Minister François Legault has refused to negotiate with the Foundation, claiming that it represents federal infringement on provincial control of education, and this far, no deal exists for Millennium Fund monies to reach Quebec students.

"It's very difficult for the foundation to do something, because the Quebec government won't talk to us. This doesn't help negotiations," said Jean Lapierre, Director of Communications at the Foundation.

"We've tried our best to accommodate Mr. Legault, because we thought he really wanted to reduce students debt and to invest in the system to improve services to students, and we proposed a couple of times a way of achieving those objectives, but we haven't been successful."

Lapierre explained that although it would be possible to distribute the scholarships directly to Quebec students without going through the Quebec government, it would be costly and inefficient as the province already has a distribution and needs assessment system. "The foundation still wants to commit to an agreement, because this is to the benefit of Quebec students. The less we will spend on administration, the more we will give to students," he said. "It would be much simpler for everybody if Quebec would be willing to sign a deal. If no agreement is possible, we will look at our options. We are still hoping that it's possible that we will sit down with the Quebec government and sign an agreement."

Although Legault did submit a proposal to the federal government last month on how an agreement could be reached, the Foundation refused to sign on, claiming that the terms laid out by Legault did not make it clear that the money would be spent in a way that would directly benefit students.

"Just because Mr. Legault wrote something on a piece of paper, doesn't mean the

foundation will sign it. There's no signature, there's no agreement," said Lapierre. "We are looking for a reduction in the debt of the students, this is why the Millennium Foundation has been created, and we are looking to sign a document that will specify that the foundation's scholarships will be used to reduce debt of neediest students."

SSMU VP Community and Government Affairs Wojtek Baraniak is equally fed up with the PQ government. "I find that Quebec's position is very hypocritical," he said. "Right now there is the Canada Granting Council, which is a federally funded body which gives money directly to students for research purposes, and Quebec doesn't say a thing about it. But when it comes to a cheque, from the Government of Canada to an individual student to reduce their debt load, Quebec flips out. They're hypocrites. They're bloody hypocrites. There's a fuzzy middle ground for Quebec where sometimes it's okay to have direct spending initiatives and sometimes it isn't."

Alain Leclair, Spokesperson for the Quebec Ministry of Education, refused to comment on the issue at this time.

Baraniak is calling on student leaders throughout the province to rally together to pressure Legault to put his separatist politics aside, and sign a deal. He hopes to work with the Fédération Étudiante Universitaire de Québec, the organization which repre-

sents Quebec students, as well as other student associations to form an effective lobby. Though La FEUQ is known for its support of the PQ government and its sovereignty mandate, the group recently came down on Legault, criticizing the Minister for standing in the way of a deal on Fund.

"I think it's time that the students at the other institutions stand up, because La FEUQ has to take a more controversial stance. They have to say: enough is enough, we want the money now," Baraniak said.

"The government has forgotten - this should not be about federal politics, about provincial politics, this should be about the student. That's what everybody's forgetting," Baraniak said. "I'm sick of it. We have to take a more activist stance on this issue."

The Millennium Foundation has also tried getting student leaders involved in the issue, hoping that their participation could speed up the lengthy negotiations. "Because we were not able to talk directly with the Quebec government, we tried to inform as best we could student associations, directors of colleges and cégeps, we have contacted everyone in the education business, hoping that we'll get somewhere," said Lapierre, who met with La FEUQ President Daniel Baril last week.

"We're saying to the student movement that we would agree, if negotiations were starting, that students, and directors of universities and cégeps could assist in these nego-

tiations," he added. "This is our proposal, and it could be very constructive, because it could bring the students, who are the most interested people, to the table to say what they want. I don't think that Mr. Legault will be very happy with that, but that's his own problem, there has to be an end to this never ending story."

Although Lapierre would not speculate on what actions the Foundation would take if Quebec continues to refuse to sign a deal, he is clear that coming to an agreement is in the best interest of everybody involved. "If this file would have been less politicized in Quebec, it would have been sold already," he said. "More than 2000 students defaulted on their loans last year. These people need our help, and we don't want to prevent them from getting that money. We would like politics to be put aside, we would like to sit down and solve a problem, which is a real problem."

Monique Gagnon, a U2 Physics student at McGill, is sympathetic to some of Legault's reservations about signing an agreement, but is annoyed that she will not have a shot at one of the Millennium Fund scholarships. "It is not fair that this government organization comes along and says, 'this is what you have to do,'" she said. "It's only fair that the Quebec government decides what happens in Quebec. But of course I would like a chance to have one of those scholarships, so hopefully there will be some sort of compromise."

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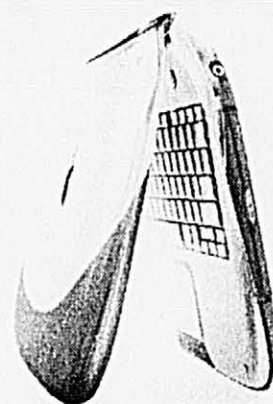
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Canadian Campus Briefs

U. of Toronto Plays With Tobacco Stocks

By NICOLA LUKSIC

TORONTO (CUP) - Members of the academic community are furious that the University of Toronto is holding on to millions of dollars worth of controversial tobacco stocks.

At the end of September of this year U of T held nearly \$18-million worth of shares in Imasco, the holding company for Imperial Tobacco.

"This is entirely inappropriate," said U of T Professor Joanna Cohen, a public health scientist who works with the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit. "It's a conflict of interest, particularly for a university with a medical school."

David Robinson, director of public policy with the Canadian Association of University Teachers, says universities should maintain a certain standard when directing their endowment and pension funds.

"It's beneath the university to be investing in corporations that engage in highly immoral activities," said Robinson. "Universities, as public institutions, should have the highest ethical standards in their investments."

But Robert Prichard, U of T president and Imasco's director, says investment managers hired by the university are

expected to obtain the best rate of return within the confines of the University's investment policies.

"The University is obliged to invest its pension and endowment funds to achieve the highest long-run rate of return among legally proper investments," said

Prichard. He says the University has no jurisdiction over what particular companies gain access to U of T funds.

In the early '90s, a committee was established at U of T to assess whether it would be plausible to divest from tobacco stocks. The proposal was unanimously overturned.

Prichard also points out that U of T is only doing what other Canadian universities are doing.

"I believe every university in Canada has the same position on investment of its pension and endowment assets," he said.

But Cohen asserts it is time for public institutions to take a stand and pull out of investments in lethal products.

"Tobacco is clearly a deadly product," she said. "It's the only legal product that kills its users when used exactly as intended by the manufacturer."

Robinson adds that universities could easily direct their funds to benefit the community.

"The money easily could be invested in more ethical ways and in ways that would promote the general public inter-

est," he said.

Prichard has been sitting on the Imasco board since 1993. Last spring he was targeted in a special report published by the British Medical Journal for playing the dual role of Imasco director and university head.

Imasco president and CEO Brian Levitt is a cabinet member of U of T's Campaign - the fund-raising initiative with the goal of attracting \$575-million in private sector donations.

"There is an increasing blurring between the private and public sector," commented Robinson.

Activists re-launch APEC lawsuit

By DALIAH MERZABAN

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Two years after 18 APEC leaders visited the University of British Columbia campus - in a day that was marked by violence and controversy - a group of protesters is re-filing their lawsuit with British Columbia's Supreme Court.

In February 1998, 26 members of Democracy Street, a group that came together in the wake of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation protests, filed a lawsuit against the RCMP.

The lawsuit, which was re-launched

last week against numerous RCMP and government officials, alleges that police used excessive force when they pepper-sprayed, arrested and strip-searched protesters during the APEC conference on Nov. 25, 1997.

It also explores the possible involvement of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the security arrangements at the economic summit.

Since last year, the RCMP Public Complaints Commission (PCC) has been examining complaints stemming from APEC. But members of Democracy Street don't believe the PCC is the proper forum for this case.

"We live in a society ruled by law, when I break the law I can expect to get arrested. When the government or police break the law, they can expect to get sued, and we are suing them over the events of November 25, 1997," said Tracy Park, one of the plaintiffs.

One common complaint about the PCC is its inability to enforce any recommendations due to the fact that its rulings are not binding on the RCMP. Some complainants claim this lawsuit is meant to compensate for this deficiency.

Complainant Annette Muttray is critical of the inability of complainants or their lawyers to independently call witnesses to the PCC.

Only the commission counsel of the inquiry has this authority.

"We feel that these procedural hurdles in the public complaints commission will not allow us to fully present our case," said Muttray, who added that the court system would allow complainants' lawyers to call their own witnesses.

Complainants are particularly interested in calling Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to the stand. Chrétien has come under scrutiny for allegedly making efforts to prevent leaders, including former Indonesian President Suharto and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, from facing protests while at APEC.

Another objective of the lawsuit is to set a legal precedent under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to define what constitutes a peaceful protest. The plaintiffs believe their constitutional rights were infringed upon during the protest.

"[We want to] make sure that the right to peaceful protest and to be seen and to be heard and involved in peaceful protest are in fact what is included in the [Charter] when it talks about the right to assembly," said plaintiff Frank Tester, a UBC professor of Social Work who was pepper-sprayed during APEC.

The case will not likely reach the BC Supreme Court until after the PCC hearings and all of the pre-trial work is complete, which could take up to two years.

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In Need of Serious Spin

Why don't multinationals understand basic PR?

BY BEN ERRETT

The occupation of spin doctor is surely one of the lasting innovations of the 1990s. It is in this decade that public relations have undergone their most rapid evolution, to the point where just about any scandal can be overcome with the right amount of spin. How, then, can the images of protest emanating from the World Trade Organization summit in Seattle be explained? The planned protests were known about months in advance; CNN just had to set up their cameras and stand back. And the organizers appeared surprised about the whole thing. The strange part is that it all could have been avoided with a bit of spin. All the WTO had to do was get a few NGOs onside, and make a few widely publicized superficial comments about how they endeavour to promote human rights through trade. This would guarantee a substantial reduction

in protesters, or at least the media coverage of the protests. Instead, the organization runs itself like something from the X-files. No one knows who they are or what they do, and they just look sneaky because of it. It's the same thing with the Multilateral Agreement on Investment – the whole thing fizzled because the technocrats thought they could ram it through without ever explaining why they were doing it. They essentially let the protesters define the terms of debate.

It has been the same story with genetically modified foods. They were stealthily introduced into the food supply without debate. When activists started questioning what exactly they were eating, the biotech companies and their scientists gave murky answers that appeased no one. Last week, McCain announced that it would stop using genetically modified potatoes, but stressed that it was scientifically valid but simply bad PR.

In general, this is a good thing. When multinationals and the powers that be

comment



try to change the world without telling anyone, it is their own fault that they are exposed. I just can't understand why, in this age where everything gets a spin, they keep letting their message get

spun by others. It may be simple arrogance, which would make their comeuppance all the more fitting. It would seem to be in everyone's best interest if they at least made attempts to publicize their intentions. Debate would ensue and they might get shot down, but at least the end result would have the public know about what's going on.

Clarification

In the Monday, November 22, issue of The Daily, Hour magazine sex and relationship columnist Josey Vogels was the subject of our Scene Locally. In response to a question, Ms. Vogels said that her brother was killed by a drunk driver. The Daily sincerely regrets the error.

Editorial

A Semester in the Life of the Most Read Paper with the Best Looking Staff

As the semester winds down, we can look up at the wall in Shatner B-03 and count 35 covers. That's a lot of hours of hard work writing, researching, photographing and laying out. It has been a little more than three short months since we put out our first issue of the year, but it seems like ages ago that some of us spent 27 straight hours panicking in the basement of this crumbling building. While we cannot prove that we are the most read paper or that we have the best looking staff (and neither can anyone else, by the way), we believe that we can arguably claim the title of the most interesting paper on campus.

The Daily was undeniably the source for campus scoops this semester, from the McGill Students' Fund to the Shapiro's Tradition and Innovation plan for McGill, it is safe to say that we've been the only paper that could provide coverage from an independent point of view. We've spoken to everyone from Jan Wong to Annabel Chong, Buzz Hargrove to Irwin Cotler. We've even had those incorrigible kids over at The Plumber's Faucet declare war on us.

Of course, we've dropped the ball a few times. Some took our first editorial to mean that we would no longer be pushing a progressive political agenda. Others have expressed dismay at Sibel & Lander, our weekly gossip column. Our response to all

harbouring grievances against us can be surmised in the following letter to the McGill News by J. Peter Nixon, BA'88 and Daily Editor in 1987-1988:

"It may interest those students and alumni who enjoy trashing the McGill Daily to know that I once counted myself among them. During my first year at McGill, I would sit back at Detour or Doug Pub with friends and discourse at length about the paper's failings. Finally, one of my friends looked at me and said: 'Talk is cheap. Either you go write for the Daily or shut up about it.' I signed up.

Suddenly, I found that I had much less time for Detour and Doug Pub, or even my classes, as I raced around tracking down sources for stories and features and spent many a late night struggling with our antiquated typesetting software. I was part of the Daily staff that was impeached in the referendum. Not one person who voted to impeach us came to join the paper. I think they missed a real opportunity to learn about the paper and themselves. Like my friend said, talk is cheap."

We'll be back in Shatner B-03 in January to begin our 89th year of publication. We look forward to seeing you there.

Hyde Park

Poor Treatment of First Year Students

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH

It was a little after eight in the morning when the tunes of Roch Voisine began to filter through my residence door. Two deep, booming voices soon followed, putting an end to any hope I had for further sleep. I lay in bed in a half-conscious state, wondering what all the ruckus was about, when the situation took a significant turn for the worse. It is hard to describe the sound of a power drill blasting through concrete, but suffice to say it is not a pleasant waking noise, especially when the drilling is just outside your room.

My experience is not an isolated one. Residents of Gardner, McConnell and Molson Halls and the Royal Victoria College have all been treated to a construction cacophony at various times since school started. Sprinkler systems are being installed in these residences, along with other general maintenance jobs. The loss of some beauty rest as a result of the repairs may be annoying, but over the course of the year it is only a slight inconvenience. The construction work is, however, symptomatic of a larger, more serious issue: McGill's poor treatment of first year students.

There is no doubt that sprinklers have to be installed to ensure the safety of residents. The question that should be asked is why the sprinkler work is being done in the weeks leading up to exams. The residence administration says that their hands were tied. Loans could not be approved in time to carry out the work during summer months. The administration also claims that the Quebec government – McGill's favourite scapegoat – restricted the project's time frame, forcing the majority of the construction to occur after school started.

Anyone who has lived in residence for a year knows that the timing of the construction likely has more to do with cost cutting than anything else. First year students are charged hefty prices for residence accommodation, yet the services provided by McGill do not match the fees. From an awful meal plan to a security patrol conspicuous by its absence, it is not uncommon for residents to believe that McGill takes advantage of them in order to eke out a little profit.

The difficulties faced by students in residence are not shared by all those in first year, as many live at home and in their own apartments. Yet, each of us has had to contend with a cold welcoming from McGill's academic and administrative branches.

It is a large leap from secondary school to university. Most universities make it a priority to help students adjust to a higher level of learning and a new way of life. A first year class should not be babied along or given a "transition year," but a little guidance is required. At McGill there is an acute need for any support of this kind.

In the first few months of university, it is crucial that new students be introduced to both social and academic aspects of campus life. McGill is undeniably successful on the first count: thousands of froshies are indoctrinated with a passion for the Montreal booze scene in a matter of days. At the academic end of the spectrum though, students are very nearly left in the dark.

Only two orientation sessions were offered at the start of the year. In one impersonal gathering, we were urged by several officials to read a dry 54 page handbook that details our rights and responsibilities. The other was an "advisory" meeting, in which we had our course selections approved so long as we were taking the proper amount and no conflicts existed.

Never did advisors tell us what type of workload to expect or make suggestions for coping with it. Never was the maze of a library system explained to us. Never were we taken on a simple walking tour of campus. Measures, such as these, are standard at most other Canadian universities. Perhaps the administration thinks we are intelligent and self-motivated, and we should learn to fend for ourselves. More likely, however, the administration has figured out that being neglectful is cost-effective.

With exam time fast approaching, I feel like I have almost gotten a handle on university life. I have learned to keep up with my reading, navigate the campus and the libraries and balance my studies with the rest of my life. But it took me a long time – almost four months – and I know others who are still struggling.

And, that morning, as I lay in bed with the power drill reverberating through my walls, a nasty question dominated my thoughts: does anybody up there in the McGill hierarchy care about us, the first year students?

letters



Enough is enough. The Daily is the best paper on campus this year but it is time for the editor to reign in the person responsible for Sibel and Lander. To deliberately publish lies is not just unprofessional, it is juvenile and malicious.

I refer to the paragraph that states that "bureaucratic bumbling" on the part of SSMU resulted in "several thousand" coffee mugs being thrown out. Sorry to let the truth spoil a great story, but such bumbling never actually occurred. The fact of the matter is that a company was responsible for a printing error on a couple hundred mugs. The company has subsequently corrected its mistake at no cost to students.

Here's hoping The Daily will no longer drag itself down with sewer journalism.

– Jeff Roberts
U3 North American Studies

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WTO Backlash Hits

Campus groups get

Pauline Hwang



Seattle protesters' sit-in interrupted by tear gas.

BY JON BRICKER

Students want a stake in World Trade Organization talks that some say is on a collision course to undermine Canada's public education system, the environment, and human rights. On Monday, a forum at McGill saw many students ask questions and speak their minds on the WTO, whose Millennium Round summit has focused international attention on Seattle this week.

While the protests, met with riot squads, the US National Guard, and a declaration of a state of emergency, Monday's McGill event saw a few dozen people come together for the event, led by McGill's International Socialists chapter and QPIRG's Corpwatch working group.

"The WTO is directly threatening education and the environment we all have to live in," said Silvia Lertz, an event organizer. "We wanted to do something at McGill because people seem to think it's of no relevance here."

The event saw a handful of speakers, organizers from the two groups, campus clubs, and an SSMU rep asking and fielding questions from an open mic. "Some were very sympathetic," Lertz said. "But others saw some good things about the WTO and others were just curious."

But Lertz said the main goal of the event was to highlight a largely negative and far-reaching fallout from the international trade alliance that Canada and the international community are already beginning to witness.

"The WTO's goal is free trade at any cost," she said. She doesn't believe claims that the Canadian government's role in the WTO will help it humanize the new global economy or serve the interest of anyone outside society's realm of elites. "I don't think the organization is set up to do that."

She pointed to a host of implications for the education sector as key reasons

for students to be concerned. "The WTO treats education as a service and it treats services as commodities. They're talking about commercialized, privatized education."

The WTO, she says, puts governments in bed with industry, and encourages a move away from public funding. She points a recent decision in Mexico to bow to pressure from the World Bank to eliminate free college tuition. A recent report from the Canadian Association of University Teachers also refers to a WTO document which calls subsidized student bus passes barriers to trade that go against terms of its deals.

But not everyone at Monday's meeting saw the WTO's implications for education as wholly negative. "Frankly, reading over the documents, some things in terms of education are quite valid," said SSMU VP Community and Government Affairs Wojtek Baraniak.

He points to the potential for more seamless transfers of degrees as one benefit that students stand to reap. If professional degrees from other countries are better recognized in Canada, newcomers are automatically put in a better position to take in larger incomes and contribute to society.

He also saw value in encouraging more students to study internationally. "Some of the problems for international students are visa restrictions and currency exchanges," he said, describing some ways the WTO could ease some of the difficulties of studying abroad. Baraniak said this potential was particularly great at schools like McGill that attract a lot of international students.

But he agreed with Lertz that students also have some cause for concern. "There is a danger that education might become a commodity and tradeable," he said. "Our entire way of thinking of governments' role in education would be drastically changed," he added, though he doubted that Canada would ever allow a fully privatized education sector.

And Canada's delegation in Seattle has said it has no plans to even discuss the inclusion of public services like health or education in trade talks, this week or in the future. "They are off the table. Period," said François Lasalle, spokesperson for the Ministry of International Trade.

"Canada considers education and health services to be two of its prized assets," Lasalle added. "We do not have to put anything on the table and no one can force us to."

But Lertz and the estimated 54,000 that thwarted plans for the summit's opening ceremonies this week have a long list of complaints with the WTO that they say need to be addressed.

"It will adversely affect the poor, workers, and the environment," Lertz said.

And if early WTO decisions are any indication of what's to come, the anti-



Protesters at the WTO conference forced the postponement of opening ceremonies.

Pauline Hwang

McGill

in on Seattle protest

WTO plight merits heed. In one recent key environmental ruling by the WTO, parts of the US Clear Air Act were struck down. More recently, the European Union has its strict laws against genetically modified foods challenged. Producers in Canada have challenged the EU's ability to keep out GM foods under provisions of the deal that restrict the erection of barriers to trade.

And resistance to those measures was hardly ignorable this week. Fronts in London and Australia all made waves, while at summit headquarters in Seattle, protesters have forced the rescheduling of summit events and led Seattle Mayor Paul Schell to declare a state of emergency.

Canadian universities also joined the backlash to the WTO this week. A number of students at the University of British Columbia have been making the trek down to Seattle, while a half dozen more observed the fifth day of a hunger strike on

“The WTO treats education as a service and services as commodities.”

Tuesday and demanded a meeting with International Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew.

“It's really inspiring,” said Liertz. “People have been told we can do nothing about globalization, but they're all there mobilizing.” She says resistance to the controversial Multilateral Agreement on Investment led to its demise in 1998.

Baraniak and Lasalle also saw value in the protests, though neither saw scrapping the WTO as a viable alternative for Canada.

“People are obviously very concerned,” said Baraniak. “But not everything in the WTO should automatically be called negative. Policy makers will only listen to a balanced approach.”

“Protest is an important means of expression that we want to see,” agreed Lasalle, noting Pettigrew's efforts to meet with NGOs like the Council of Canadians to discuss concerns, but adding, “Canada is clearly committed to the [WTO] process and the gains it can bring to Canada.”

There will be a demonstration at Berri Square in support of demonstrators in Seattle on Friday at 2 pm.

ON THE WEB

- www.seattle99.org
- www.wto.org
- mai.flora.org
- www.foe.org/international/wto

\$1-Million Up For Grabs

Feds announce new research award

BY JASON CHOW

Science and engineering researchers will have a crack at a \$1-million jackpot starting next year.

At a press conference last Thursday, Secretary of State for Science, Research and Development Dr. Gilbert Normand announced the creation of The Gerhard Herzberg Canada Gold Medal for Science and Engineering.

“This dramatic new award, which guarantees the recipient \$1-million in research funding, will celebrate great Canadian achievements in research and move the best Canadian researchers to a new level of research support,” said Normand.

Normand also hoped that the award would raise the profile of scientific research in Canada.

“This prize will be a motivation for all researchers in Canada and for all the young who want to be researchers,” he said.

The National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the primary governmental funding agency for scientific research, will be administering the prize.

The award was named in honour of the late Gerhard Herzberg, Canada's first Nobel Prize winner for research in chemistry. Herzberg was a professor at the University of Saskatchewan and was recognized for his work in astrophysics and spectroscopy.

Canadian astronaut and McGill graduate Julie Payette was on hand to give her support to the new prize.

“What a good idea!” she said. “And what better name than a renowned scientist who pushed the limits of the unknown.”

“This award is the recognition of excellence, the cream of the crop. It's something we ought to do to further interest in science. We have to recognize the stars and put a name to the prize.”

Although a science celebrity herself, she recognized that her contributions in her field were owed to researchers like Herzberg.

“Most of us – mere mortals, earthlings, users of science – are not in the same league as Gerhard Herzberg,” she



Astronaut Julie Payette at last week's unveiling of the Gerhard Herzberg Gold Medal for Science and Engineering.

said. “We're just the operators.”

In her speech, Payette stressed the importance of humility in the pursuit of research and knowledge.

“This humility is important, to know that the greatest barrier to knowledge is to think we know it all. There's always something else to know, and this award rewards those who are always striving for more.”

The winner of the award will be selected from three finalists. The others will receive a one-time award of \$50,000 in research support. The prize will guarantee that the winner will have a million dollars for his or her own research or be able to direct its use in some related way – scholarships or the establishment of a university chair for example – over five years.

“This prize is this country's premier research award,” said NSERC President Dr. Brzustowski. “Our intent is not just to celebrate Canadian heroes, of whom Dr. Herzberg was one of our greatest, we want to provide them with a new level of research support that Canadian researchers have never enjoyed before.”

Gerhard Herzberg's daughter, Dr. Agnes Herzberg, was also at the event.

“I am very pleased that the award is in his name,” said Herzberg. “He will not be forgotten.”

“We must strive for knowledge for its own sake to better understand mankind,” said Herzberg, quoting from an article her father wrote.

Nomination kits for the award will be available from NSERC in early January.

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10 Years After the Montreal Massacre

But December 6, 1989 is a day few Canadians will ever forget

BY CRISTINA CAMPISI

"You're all a bunch of feminists, and I hate feminists," Marc Lépine yelled on December 6, 1989, as he entered a classroom at the École Polytechnique of the Université de Montréal waving a gun in the air. After dividing the male and female students into two separate groups, Lépine opened fire, injuring 13 and killing 14.

All of the dead were women. He finally turned the gun on himself, leaving only a suicide note blaming women for the troubles in his life and in the world.

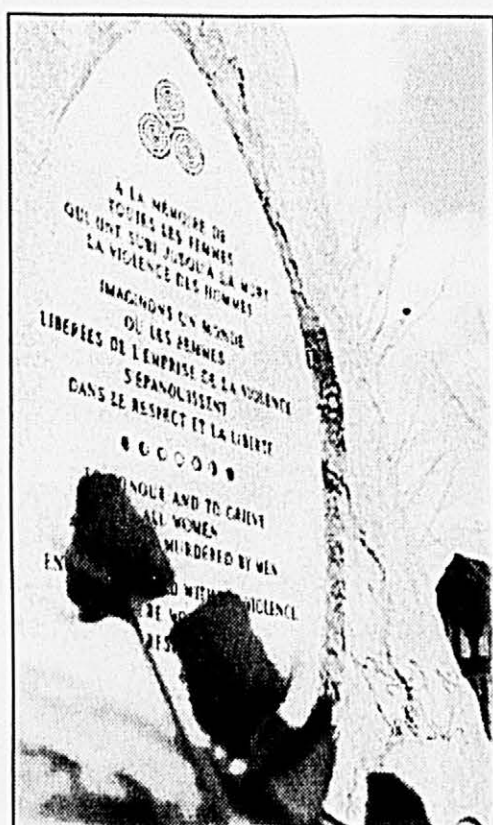
This year marks the 10th anniversary of this tragic event, certainly one of the most horrifying in modern Canadian history. It is the brutal misogyny of the act that it remains so striking and horrifying in our minds today. The killings of these young women turned a spotlight on the issue of violence against women, exciting women and men across the country to get involved and work for social change.

One such woman is Heidi Rathjen, who was at the École Polytechnique the night of the shootings, and managed to survive. One year after the event, she founded the Coalition for Gun Control, which lobbied the government to tighten its gun-control laws. In 1995, her petitions were successful and the passage of Bill C-17 meant stricter controls on the possession and trafficking of guns.

Allan Rock, who at the time was federal minister of justice, was instrumental in the gun control legislation adopted following the massacre. Now, as the minister of health, he has been active in the men's movement to end violence against women.

"The massacre was a crucial moment when Canada lost its innocence, when we could no longer say that violence was elsewhere," said Rock at a recent fundraiser. "It opened up our eyes and ears and we became conscious of the violent world in which we live and of the immense problem

of violence against women. December 6th is now a symbol of hope throughout Canada. This crisis marked a positive change in our outlook, in our courage and determination to address the problem. We



Plaque honoring victims of violence against women.

have created laws that more effectively address the problem including gun control laws, and laws protecting the confidentiality of women who report cases of sexual assault. Self-induced intoxication is no longer an excuse for violence against women and female genital mutilation is a criminal act."

Despite the concerted effort to address the problem of violence against women, some have questioned the approach being taken. Former Quebec premier Robert Bourassa spoke openly about his irritation that the massacre was being interpreted as

a political, rather than random, event. Gazette columnist George Bain has expressed similar frustration with the manner in which this tragedy has been remembered. According to Bain, a "madman's killing of 14 young women has been transformed into a symbol of something much larger," and Canadians were close to transforming "mourning into a sort of annual all-men-are-vile festival." Bain contended that the problem of violence applies to society as a whole, and thus any effort to stop violence against women specifically was unnecessary.

Sociology Professor Peta Tancred, and former Director of the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women (MCRTW), disagrees. She thinks that a failure to recognize the significance of this massacre, "individualizes and minimizes what is a really a huge social problem," and is itself an example of the deep-rooted and systemic nature of violence against women. "Even if [Lépine] was not in complete control of all faculties, there are many ways he could have expressed this resentment," said Tancred. "The fact that he chose to kill these women was not by chance, but was to him the most appropriate way to do so in a culture where men have inherited systemic power. Built into the male psyche is an element of socialization which says that women are an acceptable target of violent acts."

Sarah Clarke, a U2 Political Science student at McGill, is one of the organizers of the December 6th Memorial Ceremonies

that will take place on campus, and also works at the Sexual Assault Centre at McGill. She considers December 6th not only an example of how far women have come - they now have the opportunity to study in fields such as engineering from which they were denied access in the recent past - but also as a reminder of the great prevalence of violence against women that still exists.

"The only way things will change is by teaching women they are not lesser beings because once they believe this, men will be forced to agree and a greater balance of power will be reached," she said. In spite of an overwhelming existence of violence against women, Clarke thinks that many women do not identify with the efforts of feminists to address the problem. "The feminist movement is still in a backlash phase," she said. "Feminists are seen as troublemakers who work to alter power structures and make big changes in society. It's hard to get anywhere when you're seen as a troublemaker - especially for women who are still largely disadvantaged in the workplace - so it's easier for young women today to disassociate themselves with the movement."

"In order to be a part of the solution men must accept they have inherited greater power in virtue of their gender. It is true that institutions oppressive of women were not created by the men alive today, but that does not mean it is enough for men to bewail their existence," she added.

December 6th is the National Day of Remembrance and Action Against Violence Against Women. It is a day to remind ourselves of the thousands of Canadian women who have been, and continue to be the targets of abuse and violence. It must also be a time for women to recognize and celebrate the strength of women while considering how we can each take action to

EVENTS COMMEMORATING THE MONTREAL MASSACRE

- A vigil will take place on Monday, December 6th at Moysey Hall in the McGill Arts Building from 2:30 until 5 pm. This commemorative event is presented by the Women's Union, SACOMSS, the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women and the SSMU. Speakers will include, Judy Rebbbeck, former chair of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, Lauraine LeBlanc, QPIRG co-ordinator and author of "Pretty and Punk," as well as Barbara Gedard, a visiting professor from York University.

- Show and Speak-out at The Jailhouse on Mount-Royal presented by the Women's Union and SACOMSS on Saturday, December 4th. Performances from predominantly women bands including Women with Kitchen Appliances, and Evelyn Perry. Audience members are invited to speak between acts. Show starts at 9 pm.

- An event called, "10 Years Later: An Evening of Commemoration, Action and Celebration" will be held Sunday December 5th at Salle X, 182 St. Catherine's St. East. From 4 pm onwards, there will be workshops as well as performances by the likes of Rhythm Mercenaries, Slow Parker 5, Bad News Brown, Ellementale 5, Alex Boutros and Kaarla Sundstrom. Tickets are \$5.

- There will also be a vigil at the Université de Montréal at Memorial Park from noon until 2 pm, on Monday December 6th.

Men Against Violence Against Women

White Ribbon Campaign a growing voice in the campaign against violence

BY CRISTINA CAMPISI

This White Ribbon Campaign, an organization of men committed to ending violence against women, sent out a powerful message on Tuesday, as it kicked off a series of events to commemorate the now infamous 1989 massacre of fourteen Montreal women by Marc Lépine.

Jack Layton, a Toronto city councillor and University of Toronto professor, is one of the group's founders. Layton spoke at length about the December 6 massacre and its meaning 10 years later.

"It cast a long shadow on Canadians," he said. "People began to speak of the impact it had on themselves. Women across the country created women's shelters and shared their personal experiences."

"Until then," Layton said, "I never thought I knew the women behind the statistics. The Montreal Massacre happens

every four days in Canada when a woman is killed by a man she loves."

The Campaign marks a call for society to take responsibility for violence against women, he explained, noting the importance of not only attacking the symptoms but also the causes of violence. "We must start by working towards social justice," Layton said.

Thérèse Daviou, Vice President of la Fondation des victimes du 6 décembre contre la violence and spokesperson for the Coalition for Gun Control, lost her daughter in the massacre. Daviou spoke at the fundraiser, and proclaimed that, "Violence is not cultural, it is criminal. Men have a responsibility, not a culpability, to fight the problem."

She stressed that evidence of violence against women is everywhere, not just with

those who are beaten, but also with sexist jokes and other forms of degradation. Her hope is that more men will continue to join the White Ribbon Campaign.

Mohan Anand, WRC's National and International Education Coordinator described a goal to have a male representative of the WRC in every school, college and university in Canada, a goal which he says, has met a lot of success and continues to grow.

And the Campaign's efforts haven't stopped at Canada. It's linked itself to men's organizations in 12 countries, with new chapters popping up across Scandinavia, the United States, South America, and a number of African nations.

On March 8, WRC also took part in an international conference staged by UNIFEM, the United Nations' women's

body. Strong interest in continued work with the WRC emerged, with dates set for this year's White Ribbon week.

The conference also lent support to the significance of men's groups combatting violence against women, in a mandate that read, "Men's participation in ending violence against women is absolutely necessary. But, of course, never at the expense of women's organizations."

And Anand called the message sent out at the conference and again at this week's events, very positive. "Violence against women is not a women's issue. It is a societal issue and society is made up of both men and women," Anand said.



Mayor Bourque at Tuesday's ceremony

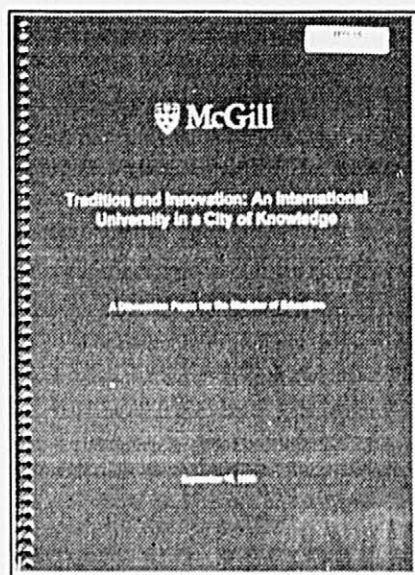
The Semester Ahead

Here are some of the issues that will be making news next year

BY JON BRICKER

GOVERNMENT'S PLANS

Administration broke out its very own "McGill redbook" of sorts this past October. The discussion paper document, entitled *Tradition and Innovation: An International University in a City of Knowledge*, outlined McGill's plans for any new funding the province can provide, and was



The infamous little red book

a response to the request of Quebec's Education Minister that all the province's schools present him with new funding proposals.

The document calls for a \$500-million reinvestment, a focus that has seen a positive response in the McGill community. But the proposal also came under serious fire from student and faculty groups and at a Senate meeting last month, when many spoke out against a proposal for differential tuition, the document's business-friendly tone, and its focus on private investment.

The Ministry's response to the McGill proposal was expected last month but has yet to arrive. McGill was to review the response and formulate a final document also based on input from student and faculty groups. Principal Bernard Shapiro told Senate last month that he expects deadlines to be extended. A government response is now anticipated for the new year, but Shapiro admitted that the longer the process takes, the less likely it is that any education spending initiatives will be included in February's provincial budget.

Expect a Ministry response that supports investment in technology and private investment, but not much for the arts or libraries. Education Minister Francois Legault, the man pushing this consultation, is widely rumoured to be in the running for the PQ leadership when current leader Lucien Bouchard steps down, so this is his chance to shine. How much pull in cabinet he actually has and what kind of a push he can make for his portfolio will be seen in February's budget.

ADMISSIONS LAWSUIT

Next Thursday will mark the start of the second set of preliminary hearings into the case of Peggy Sheppard. The former admissions director made national news last month with her lawsuit that charged the university with wrongful dismissal and made even bigger waves with a claim that she was pressured to admit unqualified students because they were the sons and daughters of wealthy and high-profile Canadians.

Next week's hearing will highlight Sheppard's request to have the presiding judge removed from the case because of his links to the Liberal Party. She planned to name a one-time Liberal MP whose child was admitted under pressure to McGill in her case. Sheppard lost an earlier request to have proceedings in English after McGill lawyers showed up and argued the case in French.

No trial dates are set as of yet, but Sheppard's supporters did say they may plan a protest on campus for sometime in the weeks to come.

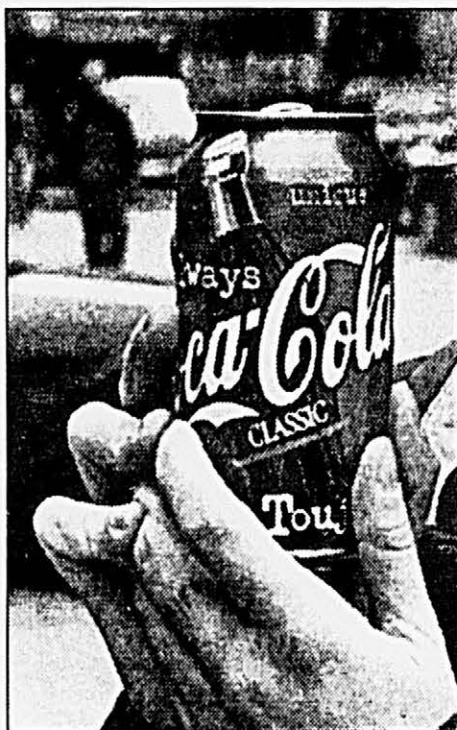
COLD BEVERAGE AGREEMENT

Winter should also see McGill move on an 11-year cola exclusivity deal with Coke.

Perhaps it wasn't a coincidence that Vice Principal (Academic) Luc Vinet was casually sipping a Coke throughout yesterday's Senate meeting. Dollar amounts and terms

for any agreement on the society's being a made a legal party for the deal, a position that would give it far more pull in the eventual contract.

Don't expect everyone to welcome the beverage giant. Many have already voiced anger with a Coca-Cola lounge to be opened in the new student centre. Coke and Pepsi alike have come under fire at campuses across the country over the years for their human-rights records, a debate highlighted by the arrest of York students who



Coke is for McGill— but how will they enforce it?

had unveiled an anti-Pepsi banner at a York football game. How strictly the exclusivity deal will be enforced remains up in the air. East Asian Studies Professor Robin Yates asked about this in Senate yesterday, and the administration didn't have a clear answer.

STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING TO OPEN?

Operations at the \$10.5-million Brown Student Services Building will kick off — for real this time — in January. The new building on McTavish will house swanky new SSMU offices and student services like the Student Health Office and financial aid, uprooted from the dated and poorly situated Powell building.

The centre opened its doors for a grand opening during homecoming in October following several setbacks including a fire over the summer, though it was visibly still a work-in-progress.

Student leaders hope that the new building will mean better quality and more accessible student services than exist now, and expressed thanks to donors and students who offered up close to a third of the funding for the centre in a referendum a few years back.



The Student Services Building

of negotiations have been kept under wraps, but expect them to come under more pressure to disclose the contract following an SSMU vote two weeks ago to pressure administration to fully disclose the contract. SSMU also hinged its support

THE FEDERAL BUDGET

For those of you who don't have your wish lists met under the tree this season, February and March just may see a second chance, though it's just as likely to be bags of coal from Quebec City and Ottawa. Both governments are expected to hand down their annual budgets later this winter and recent goings-on have many curious about what the coffer holders might be serving up this time around.

Federal Finance Minister Paul "pennywise" Martin just announced his forecast for \$95-billion in surplus over the next five years. Though Martin has said a chunk of the surplus will be set aside to make tax cuts affordable, he's been mum on any other specific spending commitments. The federal budget isn't expected until early March, but already health care, debt reduction, tax cuts, and education are fighting for the surplus bucks. A weak Liberal government spending record on education doesn't bode too well for schools or students, and the many groups (read: Conrad Black) that have been screaming for tax cuts are guaranteed to get a good piece of the pie, though not nearly enough to satisfy them.

QUEBEC SPENDING AND THE YOUTH SUMMIT

Here in Quebec, the once-proud spending PQ has a record perhaps best described as thrifty. There have been ongoing fights with public sector workers this year, and an ever-declining budget allotted for education. The provincial budget is anticipated before the end of February, but education reinvestment is just one of a number of directives on the Parti-Quebecois plate. The province has been hinting at big tax cuts and of late has put a lot of money in the hands of big businesses like Saputo Inc., which received a \$100-million gift from the province to help it buy out confectionary giant Vachon of Jos Louis fame.

But recent fiscal developments aren't the only ones bound to bear heavily on McGill's next semester. The PQ-touted Sommet Jeunesse in mid-February highlights youth issues like education and unemployment problems. But it has met resistance from some boycotting student fronts who call the summit a politicized forum for the PQ. There's been no word on official McGill participation and no offer

of a seat at the table, but SSMU has said it will take part in the summit on some level.

BATTLING STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

But what would a busy winter of federal and provincial politics and pandering be without activism at the student level. Student fronts have already begun to outline their plans for meeting the budgets head-on. The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations has plans to resume its Education Builds a Nation campaign with some SSMU-led campus events at McGill. CASA is meeting with the federal finance committee this week, but says it's also targeting the upcoming provincial budget and February's Sommet Jeunesse. The Alliance also has plans for a mobilization in mid-February to call attention to education issues and those left out of the summit.

Rival front Canadian Federation of

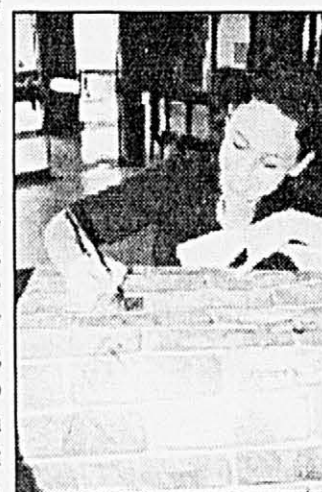


Bernard Landry

Students will head a national student strike on February 2, with a number of campus mobilizations. Though SSMU doesn't hold membership in CFS and has come under fire for its invisibility at a CFS march in November, expect the Post-Graduate Student Society and student unions at Concordia to lead downtown events.

La FEUQ, the Federation Etudiante Universitaire de Québec, is also planning a meeting at McGill's MacDonald campus in January. Right now, La FEUQ has a lot on its plate with a seat at the table at the Sommet Jeunesse and speaking out against the ongoing bickering between the Quebec and federal governments over the Millennium Scholarship Fund.

Though La FEUQ has been criticized over the years for its close ties with the provincial government, it made waves recently when it criticized Education Minister Francois Legault's handling of the Millennium Scholarship Fund issue. Apparently, politics end when they get in the way of money for students. Look for SSMU to take a big part in winter efforts. SSMU execs describe an ever-bettering relationship with La FEUQ after the two became estranged a few years back.



CASA's wall of protest

Should the University Be Your Landlord?

McGill's dual role raises some legal questions

BY LARA OKIHIRO

If you live off campus, you probably have an idea of how to deal with problems with your landlord. The Régie du logement, Quebec's rental board, can provide information on your rights as a tenant and your options for fighting crooked superintendents. But when your landlord is McGill, your options become a little more murky.

Like most every other tenant in Quebec, students who live in residences sign lease agreements that are governed under Quebec's civil code and enforced by the Régie du logement. However, unlike other landlords in Quebec—who must seek recourse through the Régie if problems arise with tenants—McGill has the ability to affect a tenant's life outside of the landlord-tenant contract. In fact, the university exercises its capacity as both academic institution and landlord to hold students responsible for their rental debt.

According to Residence Admissions Coordinator Deanne Saunders, flags are placed on a student's record when the "student's fees are outstanding," either in amount—normally over \$100—or in length of time (like owing \$50 for an eight month period). When asked about the procedure of placing flags on students' accounts, Kin Mow, the Manager of Residences, commented, "We do not want to do that, but that is the only method for holding students' responsible for their debt."

FLAGGING AS MCGILL'S POLICY

Mow goes on to explain that flagging is "not a residence rule, but rather a part of overall McGill

policy." Rental payments are "the same as any debt to the university," thus they are treated in the same manner as outstanding library fines or tuition fees.

Director of Residences Florence Tracy explained that this has always been McGill's way of dealing with tenants who don't pay their rent.

"The university policy to flag students' accounts for outstanding fees, including outstanding rents, has been in place for many years," Tracy said.

Before flags are placed on an account, memos are sent out by the university to inform students of the rent they owe. If a student meets with someone from the Student Housing Office, an understanding may be reached and the student will not be penalized with flags. If and when flags are placed on a student's account, the student cannot make full use of library resources, access MARS, or request transcripts. In other words, the student cannot register for courses, nor is it likely that they will receive a diploma.

The recourse that McGill will take against students when rental payments are outstanding is not included or stated in the lease. According to Régie du logement lawyer Jinette Chartrand, this is at the very least unfair to students.

"The tenant should be informed of any

regulations with the agreement," said Chartrand. She noted that while McGill's role is not a legal position, it is not a conflict of interest either.

Chartrand believes that if McGill was not fulfilling its obligation as a landlord, the student should submit an application to the Régie. Yet she's not sure which application and under what title such a request should be made.

"This is not only a question of rental laws," Chartrand said. "The issue exceeds the landlord-tenant contract."

IN WHOSE BENEFIT?

Chartrand said that McGill's means of dealing with unpaid rent may actually present a more beneficial situation for the student-tenant.

"If McGill decided to submit its own application for the termination of the lease agreement based on rent not being paid, the Régie could very well decide in the University's favour and the student could be evicted."

Director of Student Advocacy and University Affairs Jennifer Tung explains that the issue may be much more complex than this.

"What would happen if there were urgent problems with living conditions that were not being repaired, or if during

some renovations your things were irreparably damaged?" Tung wondered. Considering this scenario, the situation, which is ambiguous and unlegislated, could actually work to the University's advantage. It seems that there are few means available for holding McGill responsible to its obligations as a landlord.

Further complicating the question of McGill's double role of being both the academic institution and the landlord for students in residence is the fact that McGill also rents housing to non-students. According to Florence Tracy, the director of residences, McGill does "not have one type of lease agreement for students and another type for non-students." Yet the University draws a distinction between its renters in the ways in which it enforces the rental agreement. Though they are living in the same McGill-owned buildings, the student and non-student tenants are subjected to different regulations based on their differing occupations.

Whether this University policy presents favorable circumstances for students or whether it subjects students to an unfair situation is unclear. However, the complexity of the matter does mean that the university might be in a tricky legal situation if a student-tenant ever decides to question its authority as a landlord.



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Getting Involved on Campus this Holiday Season

McGill students and staff show holiday spirit

BY CHRISTOPHER NEEDLES

The holiday season has long been bemoaned: it has lost its true giving spirit. But many McGill organizations, workers, and volunteers are working hard to show otherwise.

This holiday season, staff and students all over campus are working hard to make the season as enjoyable as possible for everyone. Although students find themselves particularly occupied and in the dumps over exams this time of year, many organizations can use as much help as possible, even if volunteers can only spare a few hours.

"Due to exams, many students are busy, but the need is definitely there, especially during this season," said McGill Volunteer Bureau Head Coby Squires. She hopes that students and staff alike will help ensure the holiday season is happy for everyone. Here are a few ways you can lend a hand:

Santropol Roulant is a meal service that delivers hot food to dozens of Montrealers everyday. In addition to a corporate donations drive, Santropol Roulant runs an individual donor campaign, collecting food and money for deliveries.

Adrian Burhop, the agency's client manager says that while volunteers are always needed, there is a growing demand right now.

"During the holiday season there will be a big push, so students are always welcome," he said. Jobs for volunteers include delivery and food preparation and require very little time and practically no experience.

Thus far, Santropol Roulant's association with McGill has been very successful. A program in which student volunteers pick up food baskets in the Shatner building and distribute them to those in need in their own neighbourhoods has proved quite encouraging.

"[We are] very impressed with the enthusiasm of our current McGill volunteers," Burhop said. "I hope that the word spreads."

“ This year you may be able to donate, next year you may need to use the service.” ”

McGill Chaplaincy will be running its own Food for Thought program this holiday season, offering generous boxes of food to students in need. "No student should be studying on an empty stomach," said Rev. Gwenda Wells, director of the chaplaincy service.

The service is open between 2:00 and 5:00 pm on Fridays throughout the school year, but - once again - demand is increased for the holiday season. Contributions by students and staff are always welcomed.



Céline Heinbecker

Santropol roulant: giving to the needy

according to Wells. "Any donation would be really great.... It is always needed." If you do have a little extra, she said, there is no harm in giving. "This year you may be able to donate, next year you may need to use the service."

The Chaplaincy also runs a winter coat drive, intended to get winter coats for international students unprepared for the harsh Montreal winter, and the 13-year-old initiative has proven quite successful. "We have a huge demand," said Wells, "and response has been excellent."

There are very few restrictions on what will be accepted, as anything from hats, gloves, scarves, and of course coats, are needed. Men's jackets are in particular need especially as temperatures drop. "Students, if they have an [extra] coat should donate it," she said. "Their involvement would be great." Wells encourages students who receive new winter wear over the holidays to drop off their old garments when the winter term begins.

In addition, the Volunteer Bureau is holding a campus-wide food drive over the

next two weeks. The usual canned goods and other non-perishable food items are needed and can be dropped off in the lobbies of most of McGill's major buildings. Food donations will be passed on to local shelters. The Bureau is also looking for volunteers to help out with the drive. Morgan Zehner, VP Internal for the Volunteer Bureau, is looking for help with campaigning, maintaining boxes, and collecting.

Calling for Volunteers

Santropol Roulant - to volunteer, call - 284-9335

Food for Thought - 398-4886

Volunteer Bureau - 398-6819

Winter Coat Drive Drop Off - Peterson Hall - 3640 McTavish, Room 2, Wed. and Thur. afternoons throughout December 2:30-3:30 pm or by appointment call: 398-4104.

Off the Darkroom Floor...

PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER



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Scene Locally

BY TYLER HARGREAVES
PHOTO BY CÉLINE HEINBECKER

Name: Nanthu Kumar, owner of Nanthu's Cuisine

Location: Nanthu's Cuisine, Friday 4:30pm

Topic: Winter holiday angst

Daily: Why is it that this time of the year, which is meant for relaxation and family, has become much more of a stressful time for people?

Nanthu Kumar: It is a time of the year that I don't appreciate myself. Even before I got into the restaurant business, I never liked the Christmas season. It just puts so much stress on people. People should give gifts and do nice things for their families and with their families throughout the year. Financially too: if you have kids, you have to buy them gifts, and parents just feel that they need to do it.

Daily: Why do people get so caught up in it?

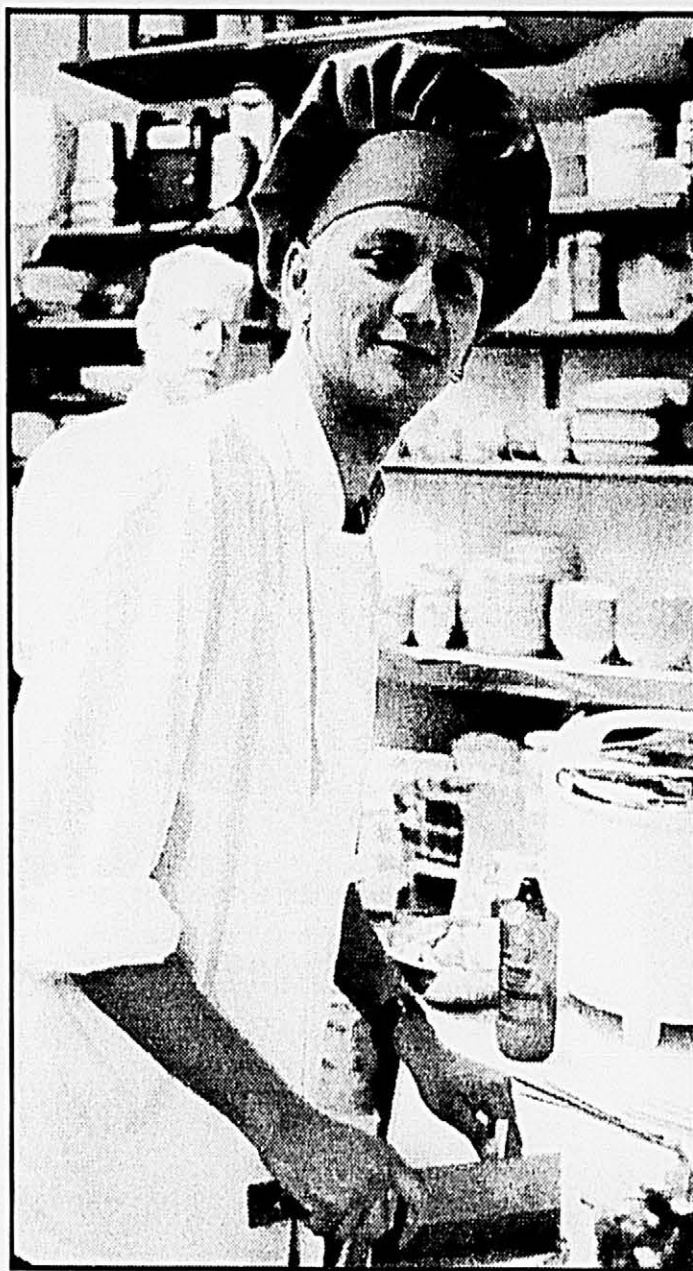
NK: I think it is a real consumer thing. I have a lot of office parties here and you should just see the amount of stress created by people because they have to choose a place that everyone will be happy with, instead of people just choosing somewhere where they can all go to be with their office mates. And people will call up and then

cancel 'cause someone wanted to go to Cheers or Peel Pub or something. But at the same time it is a time when everyone really lets loose and they'll get drunk and sleep with the people who they work with. There are positive sides to that too. A lot of people go visit their families too. My family is far, far away from me and I haven't seen them in 10 years so I can't, but a lot of my staff are making plans to go.

I don't participate in any of this. I don't give gifts at Christmas. Even my kids - I'll give them something the day after cause I don't particularly enjoy the wrapping and the opening and everything. Kids get so crazy just opening every gift and then wanting the next one.

Daily: Do you think it is a principally Western evolution that exists only in North America and Europe?

NK: You know what? There is less of this in Europe. They do gift exchanges mainly. I used to live in Holland with a Dutch girl and the idea was to exchange gifts but never buy gifts for every person. They are more conscious of that sort of stuff. Here I think it is a Canadian or North American thing. You know, it's so weird 'cause a lot of immigrant families who are not Christian also get into the Christmas



tradition. It is strange: Hindus or Tamils buying Christmas trees because the pressure is there for them to adapt.

Daily: So it isn't even a Christian tradition anymore?

NK: Yeah. Even in Malaysia all the department stores and what-not are pushing for the Christmas tree and the Christmas presents. You can see more and

more of that. They'll put Christmas decorations on the storefronts and encourage people to give gifts and to buy gifts. And it's a Muslim country. Even Singapore is like that. I think it is a global tradition now.

Daily: Will it ever get better or just keep getting worse?

NK: No. It will just keep getting worse. I think humans by nature are consumers.

You can't avoid that. I'm a slave to fashion myself, but I buy things for myself all year round. I can't stand this big crowd shopping. Even celebrating Christmas here at home with my kids I have been very, very resistant to that. I refuse to put up Christmas trees in the house. I refuse to give gifts on Christmas day. Just on principle. I think it can be done. I think if every family decides to they can just do it some other time. Do the summer solstice. Something more meaningful, you know?

And this is when people start borrowing money and using up their credit cards. And then the rest of the year they suffer for it. I think one way to break this whole thing is to leave. Get out. Get the fuck out.

Daily: Leave Canada?

NK: No, just leave Montreal. For a whole week and come back when Christmas is over. I've done that for many years. I would disappear to Cuba for a whole week. And then I come back and it's all gone. By that time the trees are already on the road - if they haven't caught fire.

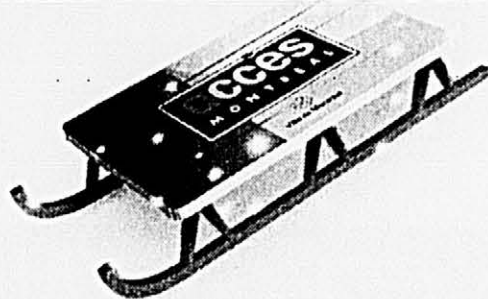
You know, it is just a waste. A monumental waste of trees and wrapping paper and everything. I don't think that Christ meant it as a celebration and I don't know how it all started, but it has just got way out of hand.

Daily: Can it be beneficial in a business sense?

NK: Yes for sure. I think that people give more to charities during Christmas time cause they know there are a lot of needy people. This past Monday I hosted a meal at the Old Brewery Mission. Some of my staff and I cooked and the Plateau Press Club sent out 15 volunteers to come and help. Since it is the Christmas season people feel like they need to give something back. And this is a way that you can actually bring some good out of people. And make it a positive experience. There are lots of positive things that come out of it. We have to be happy with what we have.

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MAY THE FUTURE BE BRIGHT AND DIGITAL

Improved information technology systems, "will empower McGill to perform successfully in an increasingly competitive market for undergraduates, new faculty and IT professionals." That was the message given by Dr. Bruce Pennycook, McGill VP of Information Services Technology, to the recent meeting of the McGill Senate Committee on Information Systems and Technology.

"McGill's Web infrastructure remains highly disparate and decentralized," said Pennycook in a report to the committee. "We need now to re-examine and realign our Web activities not only to keep pace with advancements in other universities, but also to position McGill as a leader in the implementation of new Web technologies in education."

Pennycook aims to make McGill's Information Systems more centralized and accessible, enabling people to conduct business with the school over the web. "The most routine activities requiring personal visits to offices and/or people will be automated," he said. "We will certainly be moving toward web-based course

evaluations and [placing] a database of old exams on the web."

Services will also be made increasingly available over the internet in the next two years. "We can use the internet as a solid tool for the dissemination, and the collection of information," said Xavier Van Chau, SSMU VP University Affairs. "People will be able to register for their classes, find out what web classes there are, look at course reviews, and have access to things like test banks for their classes," he added.

"Virtual Education" will also make its debut at McGill within the next year, though it will be aimed primarily at enabling returning professionals, as well as those living in rural areas to gain a degree.

- Jodi Latham

CONSTRUCTION WORK HALTED

After a meeting this Monday, McGill decided to cancel construction in the Molson Hall residence during the upcoming exam period. Workers have been installing sprinkler systems in other residences since September, but Molson was

news-briefs



the only scheduled for drilling in the next three weeks.

Students were outraged, complaining that the construction would create a severe disturbance in what should be a positive study environment. Student leaders presented a petition signed by 199 of 220 residents to residence administration at the meeting. Florence Tracy, the Director of Residences, had originally claimed that she was unable to control the project's timing due to a delay in financing and governmental restrictions. It became "quite apparent that the students were very upset," said Tracy, "and we listened." The drilling will recommence on Monday, January 3. The postponement violates McGill's contract with the construction

firm and an unspecified surcharge, expected to be quite significant, will be added to the bill.

-Simon Rabinovitch

STUDENTS INTERRUPT PM DINNER TO PROTEST FUNDING CUTS

HULL, PQ (CUP) - Over 150 students from across Canada interrupted an appearance by Prime Minister Jean Chretien during a Liberal Party of Canada dinner in Hull, Quebec.

The last-minute demonstration, held on Saturday, Nov. 27, was staged by students already gathered for the annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), Canada's largest student group.

The students were alerted to Chretien's appearance and demonstrated to highlight federal funding cuts in social spending, says the CFS.

The CFS is calling on the federal government to restore over \$3.7-billion to post-secondary education.

"[Saturday night's] student protest is only the beginning. As the release of the federal budget draws nearer, students are

mobilizing across the country to draw attention to the need for increased funding for public programs like education," said CFS National Chair Michael Conlon in a prepared statement.

"Federal Liberal funding cuts have led to a crisis in education. Wherever Prime Minister Chretien appears, he has to be accountable for the Liberals' reviled cuts."

While approximately 30 police armed with pepper-spray showed up to contain the protest, only a few minor scuffles occurred.

The CFS says it is intensifying its campaign for higher education, called Access 2000. The campaign will culminate with a student strike on February 2, 2000, around when the federal government will release its budget.

- Kathy Ramsey

BUZZ HARGROVE CALLS ON STUDENTS UNIONS TO JOIN LABOUR

MONTREAL (CUP) - It's time public, private and student unions put aside their differences and fight for common goals, said Buzz Hargrove, president of the Canadian Auto Workers, Canada's largest union.

"Increases in tuition are making it impossible for working class people to get an education," said Hargrove on Saturday, Nov. 27, during a forum at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM).

The union leader is best known for helping organize Ontario's Days of Action, a series of strikes by public-sector employees and university students which moved from city to city in 1998 to protest cuts made by the provincial government.

He recently met with student groups and said the Ontario Federation of Labour is trying to build bridges with the Canadian Federation of Students.

"We're thrilled by the student movement in Quebec," Hargrove said. "We just gave them a \$5,000 donation for their February 2 strike."

The CFS plans to launch a national student strike on February 2.

Hargrove said Concordia's Student Union seemed eager to support unions in the private sector, such as the Canadian Auto Workers' branch who have occupied a Molson brewery in Barrie, Ontario, in a bid to keep their jobs.

"There's a guy by the name of Molson on their Board of Governors, and they're going to give him the hotfoot when they get back," he said.

Eric Molson, chairman of the Board at Molson Companies Limited, serves as chancellor on the Concordia Board of Governors. The Board is the highest decision-making body in the university.

Unions from across Quebec gathered at the UQAM forum to do a post-mortem on recent failures, learn from recent successes and plan the next moves of the union movement.

Representatives of the unions included truckers, teachers and nurses. Hargrove and radical American unionist Jane Slaughter talked about their lives in union politics. Hargrove said Ontario's unions had learned a few lessons from the Days of Action. He said unions cannot trust left-wing parties to help them after an election.

"You can't rely on your political party when they're in power," he said. "When they're in power, the real power takes over, and that's Bay Street."

-James Copley



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Making Montreal One Happy Family

Mayor Bourque makes a mega-plea to amalgamate island's municipalities

BY AISLING BONDY

Residents of Montreal Island's 29 municipalities might just be surprised to hear that, if Mayor Bourque could have his way, their towns would no longer exist.

But recent weeks have seen the mayor take speaking opportunity upon speaking opportunity to make his dream come true. He wants to amalgamate and he's outlined his megacity plans for the Communauté Urbaine de Montréal in a

These weaknesses are only exacerbated by Montreal's stake in spending initiatives that other municipalities don't contribute to. For example, Montreal is one of only 15 cities to offer low rent housing.

"This results in a displacement toward Montreal of needy and marginalized populations," Bourque explains.

And his gripes don't stop there. "Five-hundred thousand people come to downtown every morning to

surprisingly, have been less than positive about Bourque's megacity manifesto. Their biggest fear is that they would see taxes rise and services decrease.

"There is no question that taxes would increase by 50 per cent," said Westmount mayor Peter Trent. He says costs would increase—not decrease—with an amalgamation.

Trent also cites problems with the Bourque argument that hinges on the idea of economies of scale—the more you consume, the cheaper it gets.

"There are diseconomies of scale because salaries for the highest municipality become the salaries for all," Trent explains.

He calls the plan a cash grab by Montreal and an obvious effort to solve Montreal's problems on the backs of the other municipalities.

"[Bourque is] trying to sweep his problems by creating a bigger rug," Trent said.

He also challenges claims that under the current municipal dynamic, Montreal shells out more than its fair share of dollars for services used by non-Montrealers.

Trent points to an existing cost-sharing program under which each of the island's communities provide tax dollars to the MUC based on the municipalities' real estate value, money ultimately doled back out to each township according to need.

Of the annual \$400-million that gets turned over, \$150-million stays in Montreal, and via this mechanism, Trent says, the cities truly are supporting Montreal's greater need for services and expenditures.

Côte Saint-Luc Mayor Robert Libman agrees. "Most municipalities agree on some formula for tax-based sharing," said Libman. "We will sustain costs, but not amalgamate."

The municipal mayors also point to Montreal's unique position among the island communities as a tourist and entertainment center whose businesses take in millions a year from visitors to the city.

What's more, the CUM mayors say, many of their residents have opted to reside in smaller communities with good reason and this community identity would be threatened by an amalgamation.

Trent even suggests that this loss of identity could translate into declining community participation. "People volunteer in a small city, they don't in a large city," he said.

And eventually, Trent says, that leads to disaffected constituencies that are afraid that their voices would not

be heard in a large city. That attitude would be furthered by any reforms to merge city councils and lessen representation.

"We would lose the ability to pick up the phone and call the mayor," Trent

his approach will need to be modified to present benefits for all those involved, at both the government and constituent level.

One survey in Outremont this past summer saw 70 per cent of respondents reject the amalgamation proposal. Only 12 per cent backed the plan.

Another ongoing survey in Côte Saint-Luc is revealing similar attitudes. "So far all the responses have been against" amalgamation, Libman said of the survey.

But ultimately, the amalgamation decision rests with the provincial government, and that is perhaps where Bourque will have to make his hardest pleas.

So far, the attitude among the mayors is that "Une Île, Une Ville" will fail.

"When all is said and done, the government will do what makes most sense. I would be surprised if in the end they go through with it," Libman said.

And no matter what happens, islanders can at least rest assured that, even if the proposal is agreed on, that a mega city is a long way off. It would be years before full integration of services and institutions would be complete, and governments would be forced to deal with complex issues ranging from civil service contracts to tax reform to by laws.

Even Bourque concedes what a lengthy and difficult process his plan would entail. "Of course it's going to take



Mayor of Montreal Pierre Bourque

said.

But no doubt one of the hottest topics of all, if Bourque pushes ahead, will be language rights. Current policies require a 50 per cent anglophone population if municipalities are to offer service in English, but the proposed amalgamation would leave anglophones in the minority

“The municipal mayors have been less than positive about Bourque's megacity manifesto. Their biggest fear is that they would see taxes rise and services decrease.”

and put the municipal powers-that-be in a position to reduce provisions for English services.

While Bourque has promised to acknowledge bilingual districts if the changes go through, Libman is not convinced. "Bilingual districts would have no legal basis," he said.

BUT IT'S OUT OF OUR HANDS

Indeed it seems that if a mega-Montreal would bring a lot to the island's largest municipality, then its smaller townships mark the Achilles heel in Bourque's plan. Even his argument that other municipalities should accept more responsibility for Montreal's costs and social problems is questionable and, if Bourque truly wants consensus,

time. We need at least five years," he said. "But I do think that we should start."

No doubt his effort will be a lonely uphill climb. His arguments to date have left many unconvinced and unwilling to support a Montreal merger and, what's more, he'll have to convince a provincial government with a lot on its plate. For better or for worse, it seems Pierre Bourque can only pay so much lip service to his plan to save the island. Indeed the fallout from "Une Île, Une Ville" that will emerge in months and years to come and the fate of the municipalities rests with the provincial government.

“Montreal's role as a cultural and commercial centre means Bourque-town picks up most of the tab for road maintenance, snow removal, and cleaning.”

plan he entitles "Une Île, Une Ville." But the plans haven't stopped with the CUM. On top of unifying the city, he wants to include the cities surrounding the island in the new system.

His vision, he explains, is the key to righting the wrongs that he sees in the current municipal-funding formula.

The mayor bases his argument for the plan on the fact that the present system is unfair since Montreal residents are much less affluent than neighbouring cities but are burdened by greater needs for social services and for costs related to being the city center.

Montrealers, Bourque cites, are suffering from a loss in population to the suburbs. Montreal's population dropped from 1.3 million in 1966 to just one million in 1981. What's more, the mayor points out, the population declined even more in contrast with its neighbours. In 1951 it represented 75 per cent of the combined population of Montreal Island and the North and South Shores, but by 1996, it represented only 30 per cent. These trends have Bourque saying things like "the growth of the cities in the suburbs has clearly taken place at the expense of Montreal."

He furthers his case by referring to figures that show higher incomes in CUM municipalities and on the North and South Shores than in the city.

work, and there are 300,000 who come to have fun at night," he said in one of his recent speaking opportunities to hype up the megacity proposal. Montreal's role as a cultural and commercial center means Bourque-town picks up most of the tab for road maintenance, snow removal, and cleaning.

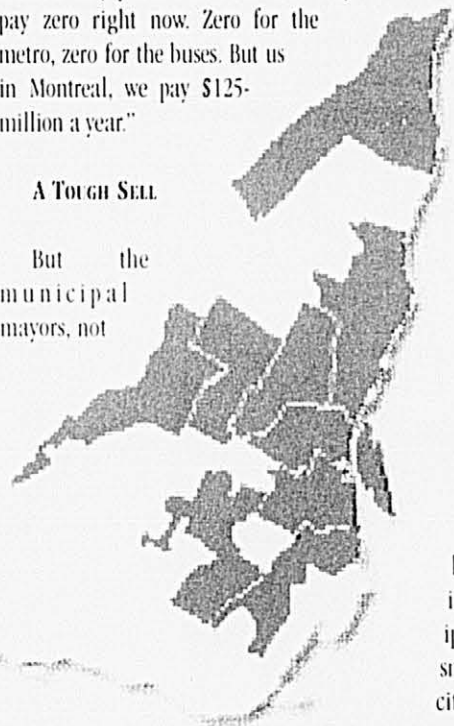
But the real burdens come with Montreal's cultural climate and a set of responsibilities that go beyond fiscal demands made of cash-strapped municipal coffers.

"All the social aid, all the squeegees who are on the corner of the road.... all the immigration comes here to Montreal," says Bourque. "All the festivals, all the protests, all these problems, it's Montreal. It's our strength and our weakness."

"It's certain that we should make people from Longueuil and Laval pay because they profit from Montreal. They pay zero right now. Zero for the metro, zero for the buses. But us in Montreal, we pay \$125-million a year."

A TOUGH SELL

But the municipal mayors, not



Island of Montreal: the red represents the part of the island which is currently the City.

So Where's Your Red Ribbon?

World AIDS Day passes with little attention from McGill community

BY TAL PINCHEVSKY



AIDS is a worldwide epidemic. Denying this statement is an allegation that holds very little water. In 1998 alone, 2.5 million people suffered AIDS-related deaths while 5.8 million people contracted HIV, the disease believed to cause AIDS.

Since the beginning of this epidemic 13.9 million people— including 3.2 million children under the age of 15 years— have died from AIDS. It is a disease that has touched people from all ethnic and sexual backgrounds in all corners of the globe. It is the awesome enormity of this disease's wrath over the past several years that makes the total lack of awareness of this year's World AIDS Day so disappointing.

country in the world. The initiatives undertaken by this annual event were inspired by the World Summit of Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS Prevention in January of 1988. This inquiry pondered the concept of further opening international channels of communication, strengthening the exchange of information and experience, and, through these, forging a spirit of universal social tolerance. While the preparation and organization behind the event contribute to the worldwide attempt at combatting this epidemic, it appears that around Montreal and more specifically McGill, December 1st does not appear to be all that different from every other day of

in a time saturated by innovations in information and communication in saying, "It's in countries like Canada where we've made progress with our drugs, we've had an important impact and unfortunately the mindset among Canadians is that AIDS is no longer an important problem. And that's because the average Canadian couldn't care less about what happens outside our borders."

Wainberg provides a historical perspective in continuing, "Before AIDS came along and the leading cause of death worldwide was malaria or tuberculosis, the average Canadian didn't give a hoot about what happened to people in Africa and Asia who were inflicted with those diseases. Unfortunately, much of the same is true today in regard to HIV. That's called not seeing beyond the end of your nose."

As upset as Wainberg seemed to be with this regional apathy towards the disease, numerous students also appeared somewhat perturbed. These students were not upset so much because of what they didn't know, but more because of the evident lack of information and organization regarding these events in previous months. In the words of one particular student, "I haven't seen any information regarding World AIDS Day and that is really upsetting. People have to know about this kind of thing, it's very important."

DR. MULLIS THE BLASPHEMER

This questioning of the legitimacy and importance in combating the AIDS epidemic has become as far-reaching as the pantheon of the institution of medicine itself. Dr. Kary Mullis, who won the 1993 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, has been vocal in questioning the conventional beliefs regarding the cause of AIDS.

Regarding his inquiries into the legitimacy of HIV actually causing AIDS, Mullis, in his recent novel, *Dancing Naked in the Mind Field*, states, "The CDC (Center for Disease Control) has defined AIDS as one of more than 30 diseases accompanied by a positive result on a test that detects antibodies to HIV. But those same diseases are not defined as AIDS cases when the antibodies are not detected. If an HIV positive woman develops uterine cancer, for example, she is considered to have AIDS. If she is not HIV positive, she simply has uterine cancer. An HIV positive man with tuberculosis has AIDS; if he tests negative he simply has tuberculosis."

Regarding his somewhat radical theory, Mullis states, "Years from now, people looking back at us will find our acceptance of the HIV theory of AIDS as silly as we find the leaders who excommuni-

cated Galileo. Science as it is practiced today is largely not science at all. What people call science is probably very similar to what was called science in 1634. Galileo was told to recant his beliefs or be excom-

municated in the final draft of the state of affairs of AIDS.

THE FINAL WORD

Wainberg documents how some feel that AIDS is no longer a threat to civilized society, but the epidemic itself is reaching manic proportions. "Within another five years, AIDS is without any question going to be the world's leading



cause of death. On an international scale, the AIDS epidemic has claimed more lives than ever before and will continue to claim more lives to the extent that this is now the world's number one public health priority."

While AIDS remains a major public priority, it simply seems that the red ribbon of the cause shone a little more brightly five years ago. During this time fundraising was at an all time high for AIDS research while the artwork of Keith Haring, another AIDS casualty, made him among the world's greatest posthumous celebrities. The inspiration and activities behind this

“ The primary goal of World AIDS day is to provide a message of compassion, hope, solidarity, and understanding regarding AIDS in every country in the world. ”

HISTORY

Those who were asked about the passing of this year's World AIDS Day, having never heard of this solemn occasion, simply assumed that it was the first such annual commemoration. Again countering popular belief, the fact is that this year's World AIDS Day— which took place yesterday— is in fact the 12th installment of the occasion.

The first annual World AIDS Day, held December 1, 1988, carried with it a particular theme: communication. Following this precedent, other themes for past World AIDS Days have included Women and AIDS in 1990, AIDS and the Family in 1994, and Shared Right, Shared Responsibilities in 1995. The theme chosen for this year's occasion is Listen, Learn, Live: World AIDS Campaign with Children and Young People.

Regarding this year's theme, organizers for the event said, "This theme reflects the fact that reaching out to children and young people is considered by many people to be the most promising strategy for reducing the spread of HIV worldwide." Further facilitating this point, Dr. Piot, the director of UNAIDS, the co-sponsored program of six United Nations agencies including UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNESCO, said, "Adults spend too much time telling young people what to do without listening to what they need."

The primary goal of World AIDS Day is to provide a message of compassion, hope, solidarity, and understanding regarding AIDS in every

the year (except for perhaps being somewhat colder).

WHO KNOWS, WHO DOESN'T

At McGill, a small sample of the student body revealed that two out of every three McGill students had no idea that December 1st was World AIDS Day. Despite this gross discrepancy between those who were and were not aware of this information, all respondents stated that they were surely conscious of AIDS in their everyday life. Despite this assurance on the part of the student body, there were a number of responses consistent with that voiced by one particular student who said, "I think about it, but I don't have to really worry about it because I'm in a secure relationship."

Dr. Mark Wainberg from the McGill AIDS Center addresses this relative apathy



Mark Wainberg

“ It's in countries like Canada where we've made progress with our drugs, we've had an important impact and unfortunately the mindset among Canadians is that AIDS is no longer an important problem. ”

better understanding and treatment of many other infectious diseases as well."

Furthering this argument, Montagnier notes that the eradication of AIDS is a definite possibility and will require a three-pronged strategy, involving not only continued treatment and a vaccine, but also a rise in socioeconomic levels in the developing world which would allow those most susceptible to AIDS to access medical care as well as reducing the role of the sex trade as an employer in these countries.

Are Mullis' ideas simply a greater manifestation of an ever increasing apathy towards AIDS as a cause and as an epidemic? Possibly, but regardless of the legitimacy of Mullis' statements, this particular case is simply a contribution to this general apathy from above rather than from below. With greater awareness of the happenings surrounding this disease regarding both funding and awareness, it is fairly certain that sheer technicalities would not

cause remain, as indicated by the continuing presence of World AIDS Day. But it seems like either fewer people are paying attention or care.

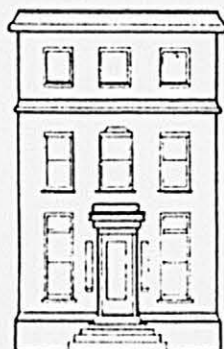
While there have been a variety of means discovered over the past few years in alleviating the deteriorating effects of AIDS, it seems that with these medical advancement a widespread false sense of security in the developed world has also emerged. Wainberg notes that "Most people with HIV are now living many, many years longer than they would without the drugs and that's great progress," but is this really reason enough to pat ourselves on the back and enjoy our supposed world without AIDS? The general populace is well aware of the means to avoid the virus altogether, but what good is this awareness if we are too self-important to think about the people that might not enjoy that freedom?

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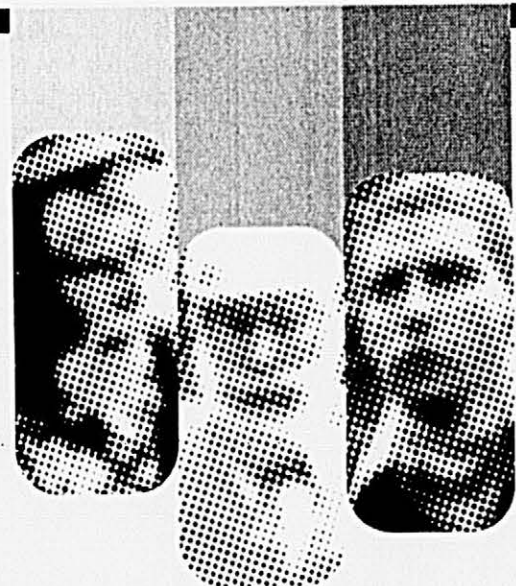
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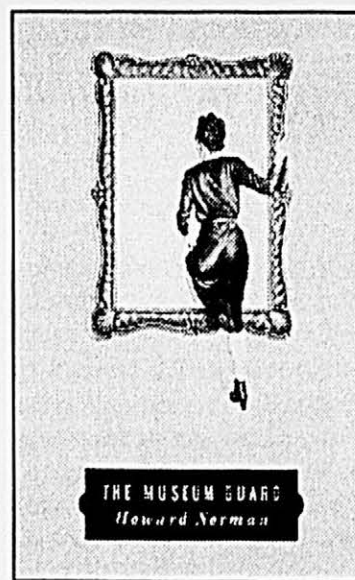
THE MUSEUM GUARD
BY HOWARD NORMAN
FARRAR STRAUS & GIROUX
\$24.00
240 PAGES

Upon starting the book, one surprisingly finds oneself truly becoming engrossed in the lives of the characters of *The Museum Guard*. The story begins to unfold in Halifax with news of Hitler's regime shaking Europe, and focuses on the life of Defoe Russet, a museum guard raised by his uncle Edward from the age of 9, when his parents died in the tragic Zeppelin crash over Halifax.

From the very start, a sad tone envelops the novel, leaving the reader with a feeling of pathos for this young naive boy who experienced a great loss at such a tender age.

As Defoe grows up, he becomes involved in a love affair with Imogen Linny, the caretaker of a Jewish cemetery. Imogen is obsessed with the painting *Jewess on a Street in Amsterdam*, and believes herself to be the wife of the painter.

After the radio broadcast from Europe



informing the world of Hitler's advance, she begins to dissociate herself from Defoe. Imogen's sudden change of character creates tension between Defoe and his uncle, yet this tension soon dissipates when Edward is shot trying to save the character Lamartine at his live broadcast in Halifax.

When Edward dies, Defoe experiences the familiarity of sudden absence that he experienced as a child. Here the reader wit-

nesses the inescapable horror of war ricocheting from Europe to Canada, and innocent people, such as the good-hearted Edward, becoming its tragic victim.

Defoe works up the courage to steal the painting *Jewess on a Street in Amsterdam*, in part because he wants to prove his courage to Imogen Linny and also because it stirs up so many deep emotions within him. He ends up sending the painting to his uncle's wife, the woman who most tried to help him through his parents' death. As a result, Defoe is imprisoned. When his sentence is served, he has nowhere to go but to the museum.

The end is rather ironic, for while looking at the paintings, the guard says, "Don't step too close, please." This, of course, is exactly the same line Defoe used to utter to visitors for most of his life.

This book is not a detailed history textbook bogged down with facts and details, but rather a touching story that moves the reader with regard to the tragedies of the late 1930s. Every page intensifies the reader's curiosity. If you want a book set close to home with a little bit of history, get a copy of *The Museum Guard*.

-Alia Somani

Calisto a Flawed Masterpiece

McGill production marred by technical defects

BY PAUL STRAUSS

Last Friday's performance of *La Calisto* was an ambitious project by Opéra McGill and the Early Music Department. Their goal was to revive a minor opera by the Baroque composer Francesco Cavalli, which was achieved with somewhat mixed success.

La Calisto tells the story of Jupiter's seduction of Calisto, a young nymph who falls prey to his deception. Jupiter's wife Juno learns of her husband's infidelity and in her rage and jealousy turns Calisto into a bear, but Jupiter promises that he will make Calisto an immortal after her death and give her a place among the stars.

This production featured some spectacular voices. Devon Wastle gave a capable performance in the lead role, while Frédérique Vézina was impeccable as Diana. Joshua Hopkins and Étienne Dupuis were a delightful comedy team as Jupiter and Mercury, and Kelly Hodson

burned as the fiery, envious Juno.

The only weak link in an otherwise stellar cast was the countertenor Endymion, played by Peter Phoa, who, burdened with an unwieldy vocal range, bungled his ornaments and sang rather off-key.

The musicians also proved themselves to be skilled players. Harpsichordist Johanne Couture played for nearly 3 hours without a hitch, while the ensemble performed admirably, only losing time when they elected to follow their conductor instead of the continuo.

Despite an obvious wealth of musical talent, the opera suffered from a rather awkward set design. The costumes appeared to be alternately influenced by the Tudor monarchy and heavy-metal, while virtually every male on stage proudly sported a codpiece. Human props were employed for mundane tasks on stage, making one wonder if they would eventu-

ally join the action, and the final scene was a melodramatic affair in which every member of the cast lined the main aisle in a candlelight vigil.

More obvious, however, were the technical mishaps. The brick of the outer wall showed through occasionally, and actors were sometimes seen backstage. An even more glaring mistake was the lighting, which was so poorly organized during sudden changes that some singers found themselves in the dark.

McGill's opera productions are first-rate, and have gained a following throughout the Montreal community. Their success is well-deserved, as the level of musical ability is indeed of professional quality. One wishes that their stage direction were at a similar level, for it is only the technical aspects of this production which betrays the work as that of merely gifted amateurs.

Events

Friday, December 3

The STANDD speaker series will be hosting a lecture by Patricia Foxen, who will be speaking on "K'iche' Maya in a Reimagined World: A Transnational Dialogue on Identity." 12:30 pm, New Chancellor Day Hall, 3644 Peel, room 322.

As a fundraiser, Montreal's Gay Line will be hosting a screening of *Queer as Folk* at 7 pm at the J.A. de Seve Cinema, 1400 de Maisonneuve W. A second screening will be held on Sunday at 3:00 pm. Tickets are 10\$ and are available at l'Androgyne and Priape.

Sunday, December 5

Dr. Pavle Todorovic, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, will be speaking on "The Recent History of Yugoslavia." 10:00 am, Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom, 4100 Sherbrooke Street W.

Tuesday, December 7

Michael Spevack will be speaking on "Planes, Trains and Automobiles: How to Ride Out Travel Phobias," as part of the Cognitive Behaviour Lecture Series, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Montreal General Hospital, 1650 Cedar Ave., Osler Amphitheater. For more information, phone 934-8034.

Wednesday, December 8

The McGill Refugee Research Project will present a lecture on "Family Deportation," by Stewart Istvanffy and representatives of the US and Canadian Immigration Services, at noon in New Chancellor Day Hall, 3644 Peel, room 513.

CLSC NDG/Montreal-Ouest will be hosting an information session for potential volunteers from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at 2525 Cavendish. To register, call the Volunteer Coordination Office at 485-7811 ext. 1015 or 1020.

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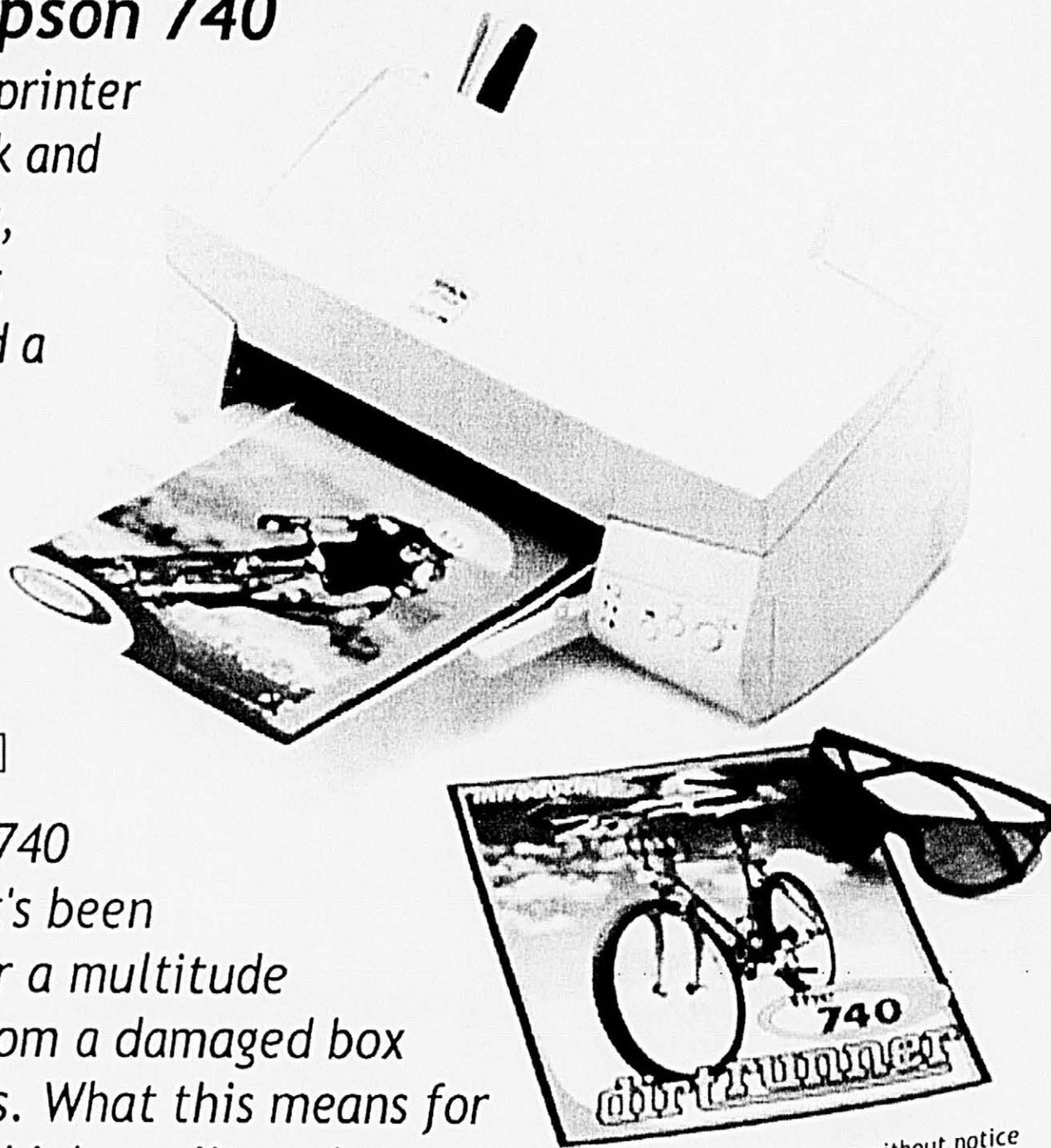
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Kerouac and Beats Misunderstood

A response to Stephen McLeod's "What Killed Jack Kerouac"

BY STEVE ZAOZIRNY

Struggling through a bout of insomnia, I happened to pick up the November 15 issue of *The Daily* lying around and was horrified to find myself faced with some vague attempt to explain Jack Kerouac and the literary movement known as the Beat Generation.

The most vital flaw in this article is the most basic, the absence of a reference to the real importance of this literary movement. Focusing on what Stephen McLeod suspects to be the cause of Kerouac's death, the article misses the enormous barriers that were broken by this complex writer and his friends and affiliates.

His move towards spontaneous prose, originating from the writing style of Neal Cassady, provided a new style that challenged the restricted styles of that time. Kerouac's prose was written out in long, flowing sentences, full of colourful insights and descriptions. This writing style would eventually become the catalyst for new ways of thinking that would alter Western thought forever.

In books such as *Dharma Bums* and *Desolation Angels*, Kerouac explored Buddhism as an alternative to Christianity, the dominant religion in the United States.



He also attempted to bring environmentalism to the public in *Dharma Bums* as the book's main setting revolves around Kerouac living with nature and learning from nature. While he might not have begun these movements, he was certainly one of the first writers to attempt to explore these new ideas and issues.

As well, the article tries to explain that Kerouac's death was the result of the muti-

lation of his ideals. One would think that being an alcoholic for the majority of his life could possibly have affected his death as well. Although the six or seven years that the publishing industry had turned its back on him did not help any, it was not the popularization of Beat ideals that killed him. In a sense, it was his own psychological torture that did.

While somehow attempting to manage

his homosexuality with his own powerful desire to fit the image of the ideal masculine man, Kerouac created his own prison. Of course there is barely anything of this conflict openly written into his books, but you need only to read one of the many biographies, such as Ellis Amburn's *Subterranean Kerouac*, to understand that this psychological torture led to his alcoholism and eventually to his death.

By rejecting and suppressing his natural self, Kerouac fuelled a subconscious monster of hate through alcoholism, constantly blaming others for his problems and turning against homosexuals, Jews, and African-Americans.

This is just one individual example of the fault of the Beats, though. This group of visionaries also used and abused women and were involved in two acts of manslaughter, by Lucien Carr — a close friend of the Beats — and by William Burroughs ("William Tell" as described in Stephen McLeod's article).

Although there were many faults with the Beats, there still existed an essence like no other in the post-World War II era. Their ideas of non-conformity were not formed on just theories and what-ifs. The Beats

learned by trying to live a free life, not allowing the tight-lipped cultural environment of the late forties and fifties to hold them back. As the Beat movement swept across America, students caught the message and in time, the decade of peace and love had begun. The Beat Generation was not just another pop-culture pick-up. To leave it at that does no justice to the great contributions they made to Western life.

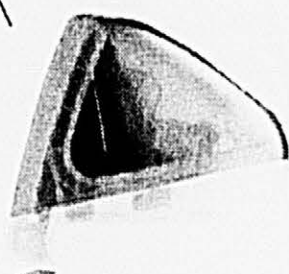
If the Beats had not become popular in mainstream American culture, there would have been no inspiration for the powerful rebellion and revolution of the 1960s. Would you rather these ideals be swept under the carpet and never recognized or realized?

Although I understand completely that trying to sum up Jack Kerouac and the Beat Generation into one small article is a hard task, it does the work of these writers no justice to leave out such.

I am no expert on the Beat Generation, but Stephen McLeod's article has portrayed the movement inaccurately, leaving out crucial details. The Beat movement was one of the most progressive literary movements of this century. It has changed Western society forever. You cannot allow anyone to forget that.

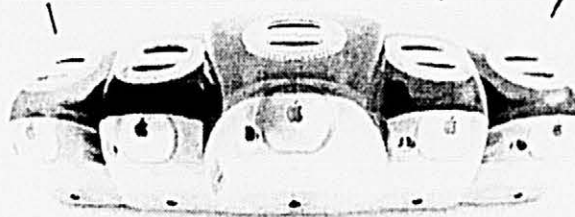
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Television Will Save Your Life



UNCLE CAM

The Grinch (broadcast times for this special are available, but I notice the fine David E. Kelly show Snoops has an episode coming up entitled "The Grinch,"

and since Models Inc. no longer exists, you really should tune in.) has a much harsher, but still happy ending type message. And no one could ever accuse Mr. Grinch of being white.

While there are other Christmas specials, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer for example, these are the three that I watched until my eyes bled when I was a wee lad.

To this day, Christmas doesn't really start for me until I have seen the Whos in Whoville having their traditional sing-song.

That said, I have to tell you that I'm getting pretty bored with these specials. I would really like to see some new ones.

Though new isn't necessarily good, the Garfield Christmas Attrosity (or whatever it's called, being an example).

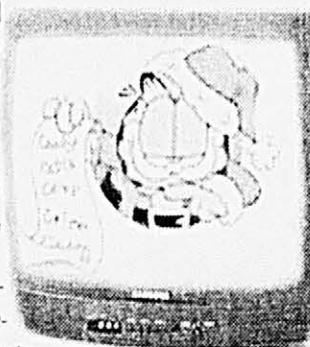
I guess my problem is that I recognize the fact that my favorite specials ignore reality — that drives me nuts. But I'm equally frightened by what a Christmas Special based on modern cartoon characters and kids shows would be like.

As an example, when I was poking around on the Internet for this column I found the following scary suggestions for Charlie Brown Specials We'd Like to See. (Don't believe me? go to: www.his.com/~tkuster/humor/chspec.html) Chuck and the little red-

headed girl learn about unwanted pregnancy in "ITS BLUE, CHARLIE BROWN!"; Franklin speaks! The Peanuts gang gets a lesson in Ebonics in "IMO BUSTA CAP INYO ASS, CHARLIE BROWN!"; Charlie Brown peddles his body for crack money while stealing social security checks and boosting cars in "GO BLAME SOCIETY, CHARLIE BROWN".

The sad thing about this website is that it really doesn't seem that screwed up. Look at current children's shows, every Barney episode seems like it was drug induced or better yet, imagine a Pokémon or Beastmaster Christmas.

The other one that I imagine with some fear is a Teletubbie Christmas. Sample dialogue would be something like, "oooohhh!" "aaaaahhhhh!"



lilly whiteness of the specials from days of yore.



Unless you have been living under a rock for the last several years, you now know that the end of the civilized world is in 29 days (or fewer, depending on when you are reading this).

This has caused many people a great deal of fear.

Depending on who you talk to, there will be no problem, or the aforementioned end of the world will occur.



In the case of nothing happening, you should probably ignore it and keep doing what ever it is you are doing around midnight.

Perhaps you will be ringing in the new year with the wonder of modern plastic surgery known as Dick Clark (the world's oldest teenager©). If this is the case, you will be able to role over and go to sleep, safe in the knowledge that your great-great-great-great-(etc)grandchildren will be ringing in Y3K in exactly the same way.

If the world indeed ends, well the situation will be somewhat different.

In the event of this unfortunate circumstance, there are many competing theories about what to do.

One suggest the positioning of you head between your legs, in order to facilitate the kissing goodbye of your ass.

Another suggests cowering naked in the corner of your livingroom, drooling (oops, that's called Friday...)

In any event, I personally have been following the advice of your average post-apocalyptic Hollywood film.

So here's what I've been up to the last couple of months.

My bunker is now complete, dug out of the courtyard of my Plateau triplex, it is finished in 1950s rec-room chic. Wood paneling, etc.

I have layed in a goodly stock of canned goods (spam, etc.) as well as some lovely, sustaining WonderBread.

I have also installed a Television (of course) and a wonderful burnt orange hide-a-bed.

Several months ago I stopped watching Entertainment Tonight and began taping all of them.

Thusly, when the world ends I will be able to entertain myself for hours on end with the comings and goings of Hollywood stars and the witty banter of Mary Hart.

As well, in true Hollywood manner, I have armed myself to the gills, so that when my friends and neighbors realise how well prepared I am, I can repel any of their attempts to take what is mine.

If, unlike me, you are not prepared for the (possible) coming end of the earth, I now present a small checklist of items that you should purchase.



Water (lots) or Water filter - mine is a Sweetwater Guardian.

Food (lots). Gold (or other precious goods).

Entertainment. Or you could

just become one of the looting masses.

As for this whole computer bug thing, I'm told that 1998 has exactly the same dates as the 2000, so set your computer clocks back to 1998 and shut the hell up.

So that's it. Stop your bitching and watch Dick. He is obviously the messiah.

Or at least his older brother.

A Cry from the Himalayas

BY COLIN OSWIN

When someone describes himself as an "alt folk singer/song-writer" you might be forgiven for developing one or two unflattering preconceptions. However, in the case of Craig Cardiff and the Himalayans you'd be pleasantly surprised to find yourself wrong.

Cardiff will be performing each night, with drummer Paul McNinis, from Dec 4 through the 7th in clubs around Montreal, promoting his new CD, *The Great American White Trash Novel*. That album, says the press release, has been described as "the most significant independent acoustic pop release in North America for 1999." All bombast aside, the album is quite good. The folk sensibility is definitely there, but tempered by more pop elements. To refer back to the press release, Cardiff is the "excellent, sordid offspring of Paul Simon and Ani DiFranco". Upon reflection, this really rings true, *The Great American White Trash Novel* is what might happen if my Dad's and my ex-girlfriend's record collections had some sort of bastard child. Of

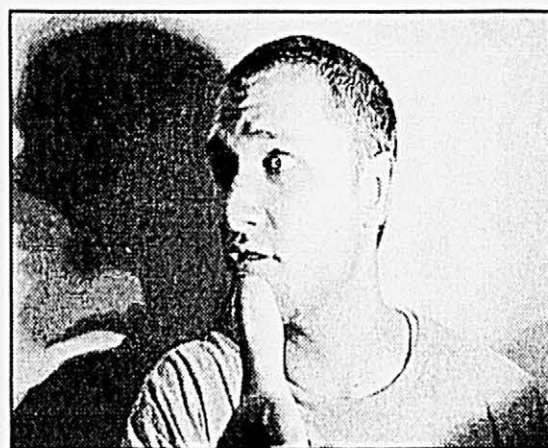
his new album, Craig Cardiff himself said, "[It's] something of a tribute to Pierre Trudeau — celebrating his giving the finger to the crowd of demonstrators — it's about Mordecai Richler — it's about the Eastern Townships — it's about Canada.

Cardiff began writing the album after spending the last year traveling in Asia and India. The time abroad allowed him the distance to examine the Canadian identity. He remarks, "Often you have to remove yourself from something to gain a perspective on it."

In talking about Canadian identity, he wonders: "Take out hockey and what's left?" This sentiment is reflected in the album.

At twenty two years, Cardiff has been

making music for five years and began touring seriously fairly recently. Preferring to play shows over studio work,



Craig Cardiff

he is enamoured with the "interaction between the audience and the performer, because it's probably overrated, but I really believe that if not for the audience, the performer would have nothing to work against or challenge. And it's an amazing thing, there can be a hundred people in the room or five or a thousand and every-

body connects on some level. Even in clashing there's tension and that's still really exciting."

A consummate performer, it seems as if this theme of challenging the audience runs through a lot of Cardiff's everyday life. During the interview he offered to field some more spicy questions, but I replied that I didn't really have any and I didn't want to offend him.

"We're incredibly excited to be performing in Montreal, what I think is one of the most vibrant musical communities. In Toronto, everybody goes there to get big and they starve themselves and pay to play or they lose money and that's considered being a musician. And it seems to me that in other places there's not the pursuit of a commercial end, certainly not in Halifax. We haven't spent a lot of time in Halifax, but the musicians were playing there and making a living at it and it's about the music and not about shaking hands with record labels and PR people. And often in Toronto there's a large degree of name dropping. It's like 'Hey, we were at the Horseshoe and this

guy from the Tragically Hip who holds their water bottles was there,' [and I'm thinking] 'how was the music, or were you moved?' and often that takes a back seat to the pursuit of financial gain.

Some of Craig's favourite local Montreal musicians include, Lindy, Lisa Gamble, Williams, who he describes as "absolutely brilliant", Robert David who is "Great and unique, him and Williams, they're not trying to be like anybody."

Next February, a CD of live performances from the States and Ontario will be coming out. "We've managed to capture a decent sound quality as well as our live show, where you can't do things like fake a guitar solo."

The show on December 4 will be part of *The Marathon de Musique Mondiale's Christmas Benefit Gala Event* at Le Zest, 2100 rue Bennett, and will include performances by James Haouzi, Williams and Verushka. Proceeds from the event will be donated to Santropol Roulant.

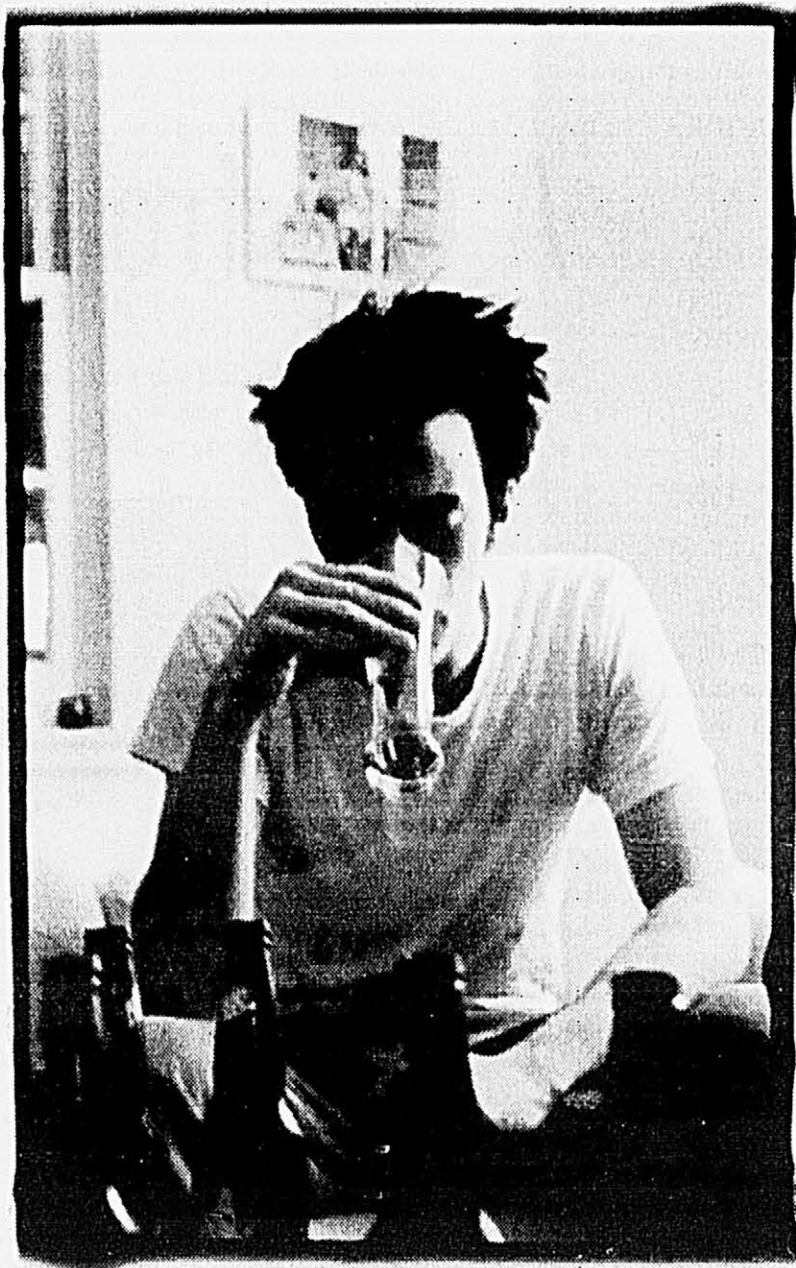
Craig Cardiff can be reached at craigcardiff@neatmedia.com

PARTY PEOPLE!!!

BY PIERRE-ALAIN PARFOND

Yes, parties are a lot different than the ones your parents had. They have changed, but it's actually the people who have changed more: now, it's all about heavy drinking and smoking up. Changing our state of mind and not just our appearance. It's all about behaviour and ATTITUDE. Nowadays, if you start dancing at a party you'll just be considered a buffoon or have snack food thrown at your head. A lot of people behave as if they

were 30-year-old adults having a little wine-and-cheese and laugh at bad jokes and insult you as soon as you turn your back. No man! Relax: enjoy your drinks or magic cigarettes with no-moderation and be happy, talk truly to each other, tell someone you like that you do, and vice versa to someone you don't; now go ahead and have a great happy new year.



The Francophonie in Art

Exhibit's multinational collaboration highlights differences in aesthetics

BY SARAH COHEN

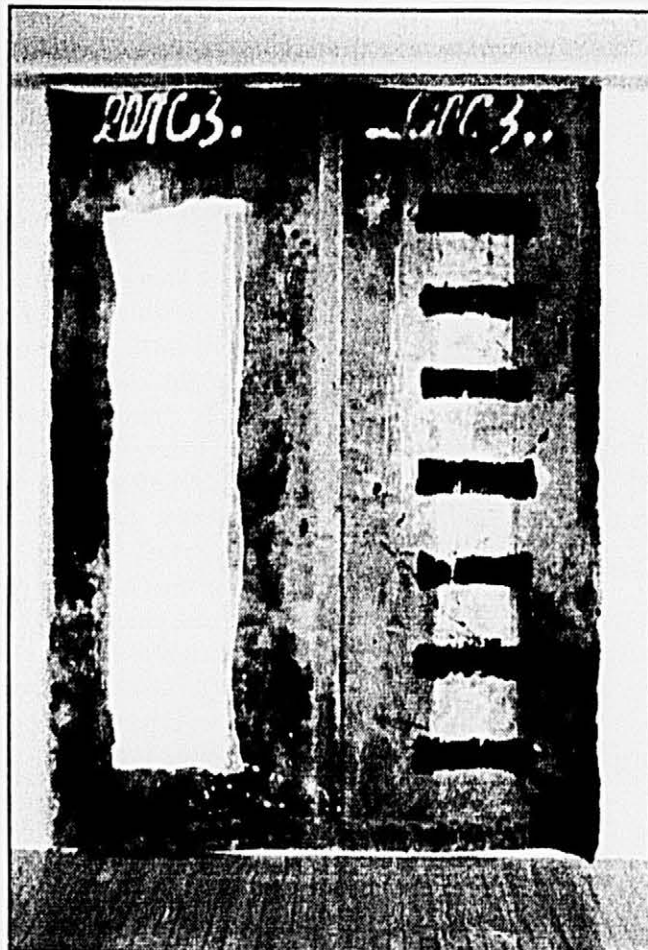
The originality of "Matiere des Mots" lays in the union of five artistic crafts: Painters, writers, sculptors, filmmakers and editors. The encounter of nine artists from Belgium, France and Quebec and the meeting of words, images and materials, offers a successful glimpse at real diversity.

The work of Jacques Clerc is the centerpiece of this creative combination. This French sculptor and editor presents here an odd book, all written on a sumptuous papyrus-like paper you'd find in the time of the Ancient Egyptians. The author named it "Les Corps sans Hatre ou les Blasons de Jeanne". An evocative title can do nothing but attract the spectator's eyes, thirsty of dirty stories! With very precise details, Jacques Clerc described a physical and sensual love, with raw words and innermost feelings. After each paragraph, a dazzling painting ornaments the page. Sparkling covers reflecting blue hues adorn these small colored frames, forming a crimson red to a deep night blue. It conveys an impression of smooth grain and help to forget the violence of the desire evoked in the writing script.

The sweet lightness of Henri Cueco's work is also very entertaining. Three large paintings are hooked on the wall, representing a sort of deformed tadpole. Actually, a text full of fine humor explains this is a slug. The painter, who is also a writer, tells us how lovely and useful this mollusk can be. Although it might have been the cause of a thighbone fracture, Henri Cueco says, a slug is a very helpful camouflage means for shy young boys during a town ball!

"Matiere des Mots" also presents some of Christine Nicaise oil paintings. The Belgian painter mingles pastel colors on canvas. This technique conveys an impression of lightness, as if the frame was flying. The tones are deep and soft, with gray-blue and clear beige backgrounds crossed with black and white stripes.

By contrast, some works are much more striking and raw. The work of Quebecois Patrick Duhamel for instance is a violent mix of video images, words and sculptures. He entitled the whole: "Deux Songes de Tables". On a screen, a naked man is lying on a hospital bed, frightened at the prospect of his uncertain future. In the background, a soundtrack is reciting a



Michèle Gower

mash of confused words including, "you are a mushroom, a snake, an egg, a plastic fly...". Justaposed to this display is a girl eating, and in front of the screen, a wood construction stands, entitled "Chocolate heart, aluminum counter-plated, ventilator, heating elements, video, choice".

Is there something that can be concluded out of this hodge-podge of art? Well, the common creation of plasticians and literaries is rather talented. The intellectual trends and the unavoidable psychoanalytic references to sex and libido, which are so often present in artistic works, do not prevent this exhibition from being aesthetic and humorous. Some works are tough and raw, especially the Duhamel composition of video and words. But this is part of the interesting melting pot of "Matiere des Mots", which knows the right proportions of each trends.

Matiere des Mots was presented in France and Belgium in 1998. It will be on view in the Circa exhibition center located at 372, St. Catherine Street West, in suite 444 until December 18. Open from Wednesday to Saturday, 12:00-5:30.

Art — Quebec Style

Hundreds of paintings heaped in Marché Bonsecours for the National Art Show of Quebec Galleries

BY SARAH COHEN

From November 24th to November 29th, The Marché Bonsecours played host Quebecois Art Galleries. In spaces reserved for each gallery, owners presented samples of their various paintings and sculptures. The result was a crowded exhibition hall, with paintings hooked one next to another, without any empty space left for a visitors' eyes looking for a break. Once more, the paintings were all imprisoned in those large and ancient golden frames, which made the show atmosphere even heavier. Was there something interesting and particularly relevant of the Quebecois Art in all this jumble?

The most attracting part was the wonderful view offered through the window of Marché Bonsecours. But let's come back to the Quebecois Art, which was the topic of the exhibition. It was a bit disappointing. There was interminable series of landscapes: quiet snow-covered forest of the Great North, snow-covered streets of Montreal, cozy chalet in the mountain, country side scenes, little town with the central steeple, boat floating on a smooth sea. In short, all the paintings were completely idealistic. A trend towards old-time nostalgia actually dominated the show, a kind of remembrance of the past, when

nature was the main human being's blooming place. While looking at the galleries as a whole, there is an impressive emphasis on perfect daily life scenes. The colors are mostly bright and basic, and from characters to surroundings, not a menacing shadow is appearing.

The best illustration of this naive trend could be the incredible number of paintings representing little sweet girls dressed in handsome fully dresses, playing and laughing together in front of dainty houses, with their blond manes flying in the air. Ominously, this very kitsch atmosphere might be conferred to the Christmas time coming. But even when the paintings were not landscapes, they were still life. Needless to say it's boring to contemplate never-ending rows of apples pyramids delicately piled in turquoise fruit dishes.



Richard Savoie's "Douce nuit de decembre"

In the midst of the cliché infested display of "wintry promenades", "young girls in flowers" and "hockey games in front of primary schools", some were successful. Nicole Payette for example, who exposes in the Michel-Ange Gallery, made some appealing portraits. "La Jeune Fille a la Tresse" is one of her paintings. This is a thin and tall girl painted in a long and narrow frame. Among the red dominating tone, only clashing



A work featured from the Galerie Michel-Ange and Utilis

ing ochre and indigo-blue touches lighten the sad faces of the silent girl. The paintings of Danielle Lantaigne, gathered in the Michel Bigné Art Gallery were also interesting. For instance, there was a breakfast with original red-yellow dishes and cutlery painted vertically. An amazing giraffe was then presented, with a thin sense of humor, in two superimposed frames, one with the body, the other with the head.

Thus, the diversity of works was able to offer some quality selections, representing

all major art currents, ranging from traditional and naïve art to new figurative work and abstraction. However, the majority of the Quebec Art Market presented there was somehow disappointing: too many landscapes and still life with no exceptional paintings or eye-openings.

Usually, prices are so high in galleries that most of the people only go there for the eyes' pleasure. The problem is that in this National show, even that wasn't offered.

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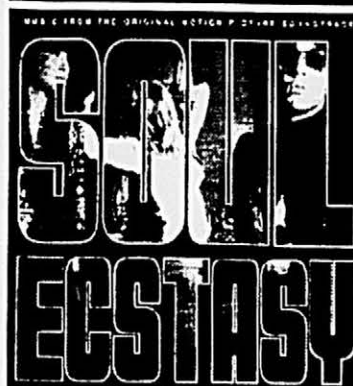
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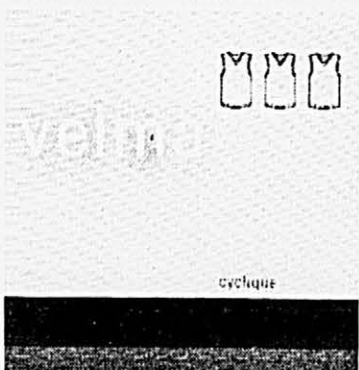


SOUL ECSTASY
ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE
SOUNDTRACK
(EMPEROR NORTON RECORDS)

Soul Ecstasy was a movie that played for two nights in 1972. The creation of a disenchanted ABA basketball player with Black Panther connections, it spun the strange tale of a Hong Kong sex slave operation run out of the Bronx, and aimed at a general subversion of the United States. The film was dropped by its distributor after it pushed one viewer to arson. In 1979 all the known prints were destroyed by a second fire, which killed the director Fulton James. Only the soundtrack survived, and here it is again, 20 years later.

The album has a lot of things going for it, not least of which is its interesting origins. Also, as the movie was to take place both in New York City and in Hong Kong, the music producer decided to fuse funk with pseudo-Chinese instrumentation. The result is straight-up seventies funk with sitar and tabla.

When it takes off, the results are very groovy transcontinental jamming. Some of the tracks have a lot in common with the world-beat influences that have been finding their way into Hip Hop recently. "Citroens 'n' Sitar" is a prime example. The title track is one the more standard funk numbers that really has some soul to it. The band is tight, the beats are good, but remember, this is a soundtrack from before the time when soundtracks were big business. The songs tend to be long and repetitious, and only one of them has a vocalist (two if you count the orgasms in "Jungle Lust"), and some of them are downright unpleasant. "Pussyfoot Ray" sounds more like cheap *Star Trek* sound-effects than anything else. Some of the tracks have also been released on vinyl, and they would definitely make exotic DJ food. The album has a few original funk tracks, but it would probably be more at home amongst cinematic Hip Hop, like *The Herbalizer*, than James Brown. -Alex Aylett



CYCLIQUE
VELMA
(EMPEROR NORTON RECORDS)

Swiss ambient electro-indie-pop, whatever that means, is what Velma are. Lay out some ambient electronic arrangements, simple guitar chords, and

CD Reviews

drum beats, and put in vocals that combine a melancholic Smashing Pumpkins with Radiohead, *et voilà*: Velma!

Their new album *Cyclique* demonstrates good electronic compositions. The second track "Orange" has a great interplay between a electric click-track and some very simple drumming. "Circumflex" is a nice mix of electronic, acoustic, and vocal elements, and "Masquerade's" leisurely soundscape is beautiful.

Whether it is good music isn't the question. The real question is how long you are willing to wait for something to happen. Most of the tracks are close to 6 minutes long, some more than 10, and they develop slowly. The few tracks with lyrics take the English as a second-language simplicity of Bjork and Cibomatto to new and frustrating extremes.

The presence of "live" musicians brings with it certain expectations. For example, if you hear a singer, you want them to say something. If you hear a guitarist and a drummer, you want cool riffs. If you can let go of these expectations you can appreciate *Cyclique* for what it is, an interesting, and successful, experiment ambient music.

Once more, the album is an enhanced CD, making the ninth track an interactive CD-ROM project, presumably representative of the projections that accompany Velma's creations in concert. But buyer beware, it crashed my computer. -Alex Aylett



LET'S GO TO WORK
THE KINGPINS
(STOMP RECORDS)

Looking for some real, stick-to-your-ribs, retro checkered secret-agent sounds? A tight portion of horns, drums, base, guitar and organ, smothered in a hearty vocal and sax sauce? Well here is some fresh ska to satisfy your cravings. Chalking up 15 tracks, The Kingpins' second release, *Let's Go to Work*, is uninterrupted satisfaction from beginning to end. A journey from the jungle into the city, they cover a lot of musical ground. Paddy Walsh, who handles most of the singing, pulls it off with rough style.

The songs, written primarily by guitarist Bobby Beaton, along with Walsh, all have the skankin' energy that you would expect. Giving credit where it's due, "Just One Day" tips the hat to Me, Mom & Morgentaler - the band that burst onto the Montreal ska scene. And "Last Train to Expo '67" is dedicated to Nick Auf Der Maur. There are some tracks that sink below the rest: "Manon, Viens Danser le Ska", the only French contribution, lacks a certain *je ne sais quoi* and "Johnny Rock Steady" is a little too simple. But they are a small dent in what is definitely the study-time pick-me-up album for the skanksters among you. Now finishing up a Canadian tour, The Kingpins should be back in town soon, so check your local listings. -Alex Aylett



BLUE
THIRD EYE BLIND
(WARNER MUSIC)

Ordinary. That's the best way to describe *Blue*, the new album from Third Eye Blind. After the multi-platinum success of their debut album with hits like "Semi-Charmed Life" and "How's it going to be", fans eagerly awaited this second effort. Well, this album doesn't bring anything new. Not to their music, not to their fans and certainly not to the music scene. Stephan Jenkins (lead singer and songwriter) must have said a thousand times that 3EB's success is due to the fact that they don't fit in, but he is wrong. They are popular because they fit in perfectly. Their kind of music, best described as pop meets punk-funk is the in thing right now. So that's a good thing, right? Not for them because they claim to be different.

As for the lyrics, it doesn't always show that Jenkins has a degree in English. And the music doesn't always help. In fact, sometimes their method of relying on highly energized jam sessions produced really weird music. Redeemed in part because of the last song, *Blue* is quite disappointing, and further proves the point that following up a hit album is the most difficult part of the music industry. In other words, it wouldn't make a very good Xmas present. -Sonia Ziaide



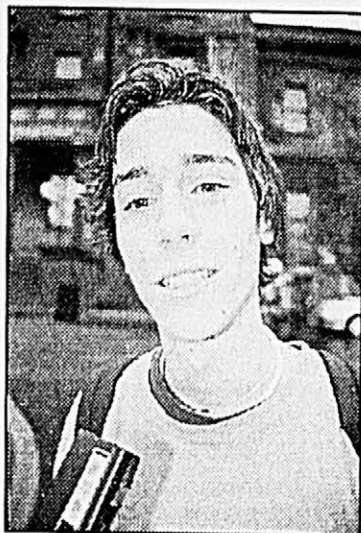
COLOUR MOVING AND STILL
CHANTAL KREVIAZUK
(SONY)

Much like her last album, Kreviazuk's new release promises track after track of melodic mainstream pop. Two years after her debut album, *Colour Moving and Still* is Chantal's new disc, including 10 original tunes - some moving, some boring, and some guaranteed to be Mix 96 hits (check out the songs "Blue" and "Before You"). The seventh song, "Soul Searching," picks up the pace with a catchy, sample-friendly opening, until a small vocal riff (that sounds too much like B*Witched's "C'est La Vie" for comfort) ruins the good effort. If you aren't a huge Chantal fan, or at least an obsessive Canadian music supporter, don't bother buying the album. But if you're interested in hearing some of her new stuff, tune your tube to a new episode of *Dawson's Creek*. It's free, it's more entertaining and it's guaranteed to be featuring one of her new tracks at any given Dawson-still-loves-Joey golden moment.

So What's Up for New Year's?

BY MATT TEVEZ

PHOTOS BY PIERRE-ALAIN PARFOND



JAYBEE "PAMPLEMOUSSE"

Daily: Do you have any plans yet for New Year's Eve?

J.P.: A lot of drinking, a lot of grapefruit, a lot of Camel cigarettes. Improvisation, basically.

Daily: Are you expecting any Y2k related chaos?

J.P.: They say the world is going to start turning the other way around. That inverts the gravitational pull, so you got to walk on your hands. Very hard to drink that way. Take a leak that way... even worse.

Daily: Will you be taking any safety precautions?

J.P.: A lot of pills. Methedrine, so I can stay awake. Riots will be a part of the party.



ADELINA VLAS

Daily: Do you have any plans yet for New Year's Eve?

A.D.: I am going to be spending it with my parents in Montreal.

Daily: Are you expecting any Y2k related chaos?

A.D.: I don't think anything major is going to happen, I think just everybody is crazy about it. And, if something does happen it will be because people are too crazy about it or afraid that something is going to happen.

Daily: Will you be taking any safety precautions?

A.D.: I am going to buy food for a couple of days, just in case, but otherwise no.

CHRIS GUDAS

Daily: Do you have any plans yet for New Year's Eve?

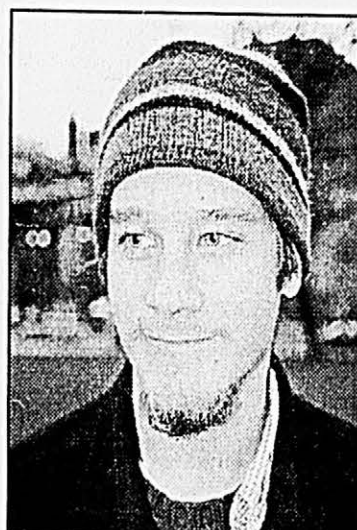
C.G.: Not yet.

Daily: Are you expecting any Y2k related chaos?

C.G.: Not really.

Daily: Will you be taking any safety precautions?

C.G.: I'm not afraid of computers crashing. I may stock up on water and canned food. I don't think people are going to riot.



DIA DABBY

Daily: Do you have any plans yet for New Year's Eve?

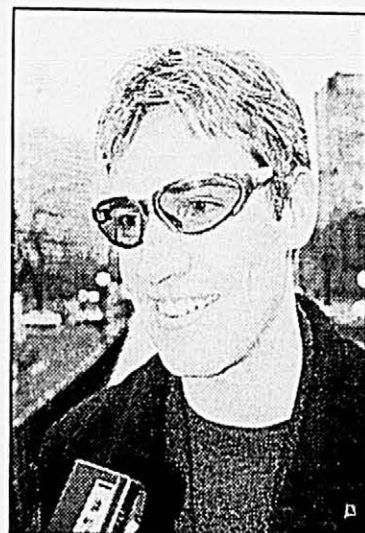
D.D.: I am going to a friend's party in Montreal. I am not too keen on this millenium thing, it's too much hype for me. It's just another New Year's.

Daily: Are you expecting any Y2k related chaos?

D.D.: Possibly, it might happen at the University, I don't know. It depends, I don't think Montreal is going to be that affected, but other countries or more rural areas might.

Daily: Will you be taking any safety precautions?

D.D.: No. I was here during the ice storm in '98 and was able to live through that. It's only short-term.



TAYLOR LLOYD

Daily: Do you have any plans yet for New Year's Eve?

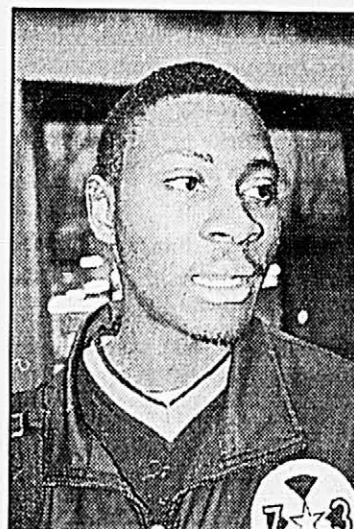
T.L.: I am going to be flying to Puerto Rico two days before New Year's Eve and then I'm flying back six days after. I hope the plane doesn't crash, or I'll be burning up over the Atlantic and they'll be sending the USS Grapple to come find me.

Daily: Are you expecting any Y2k related chaos?

T.L.: Maybe a little in some places, but it will probably be a big letdown. Like most New Year's, it's just another night. It's an artificially created day, somebody just decided that, you know what, this will be January 1st, 2000. It's really not going to be that big of a deal.

Daily: Will you be taking any safety precautions?

T.L.: I'll probably be too wasted to be conscious about it. I am not worried too much.



UCHE CHITA

Daily: Do you have any plans yet for New Year's Eve?

U.C.: I am going to be in New York for a big party. I am going to wait for the warships to come take us back somewhere, I don't know where.

Daily: Are you expecting any Y2k related chaos?

U.C.: Definitely. First of all, everybody is going to call everybody at the same time and the phones aren't going to work after that. People are going to start screaming and think something is happening. Everything will happen at once.

Daily: Will you be taking any safety precautions?

U.C.: I am going to buy candles and that sort of thing.

LE'NISE BROTHERS

Daily: Do you have any plans yet for New Year's Eve?

L.B.: I am probably going to a house party in Toronto.

Daily: Are you expecting any Y2k related chaos?

L.B.: Probably, because people are stupid and ignorant and expect the world to end. Apparently one out of six Americans believes that the world is going to end.

Daily: Will you be taking any safety precautions?

L.B.: Not really, other than shutting down my computer.



LEO WILSON

Daily: Do you have any plans yet for New Year's Eve?

L.W.: New Year's Eve I plan to be drinking champagne with some beautiful women at my summer place, hopefully engaging in sexual activities.

Daily: Are you expecting any Y2k related chaos?

L.W.: Yes, that's why I'll be escaping to the small island off Vancouver. I don't think anything's going to happen. I think it's just a hoax so that manufacturers and industrial producers can make lots of money off of us.

Daily: Will you be taking any safety precautions?

L.W.: I only have a laptop, so I don't think that's going to crash. I'm a little worried about the banks. I will take some money out and keep it in my lock box, but nothing too crazy. I am going to bring a little stockpile of food over to the island to be safe, you never know.



Astronauts and Idols

What shall I wear in 2050?

BY RAPHAËLE EYTAN

Science-fiction films disagree about fashion in the centuries to come. Some show men and women dressed in jogging-suit-style uniforms – metallic and desperately neutral. Others feature future generations extraordinarily adorned: men in long robes, women in colourful outfits covered with jewellery.

This is a serious topic. The 21st century is drawing close, my cupboard is empty, and I don't know which designer to turn to. But before we look ahead, let's engage in a slightly biased retrospective.

What has happened lately? Recall the Greek tunic, immortalized by so many Hellenistic statues, which went through more glorious days around the beginning of the 19th century, including another interpretation by French designer Madame Grès – although her treasures were only available to a clique of "smart" ladies.

Remember hennins, the tall, stiff, cone-shaped headdresses that women wore in the Middle Ages. Reminisce about 17th-century France, when men wore wigs, a necessity because the Sun King, Louis XIV, had a rather ungraceful bump to hide on the top of his head. And recall the crinoline dresses and high, powdered hairstyles in favour when Marie-Antoinette was queen of France. Her mother, Empress Maria-Theresa of Austria, used to scold Marie-Antoinette, trying unsuccessfully to convince her that a queen should spend more time looking after her people – and less time on her coiffure.

In the 18th century, painters portrayed even shepherds with smiling faces and colourful clothes. In the 19th century, this personal happiness was replaced by its corollary, misfortune, when the industrial world was born. The Industrial Revolution

The tanagra figure of a noble Greek lady in chiton and cloak, circa 320 BC, recalls the oldest fashion clothing: clear, large, and gracious dress for men and women of Antiquity.



FASHION THEN AND NOW

Left: Clothing by Laurin and Jean-Charles de Castelbajac, 1999: white-spaceship hygiene.

Right: This woman of unrealistic proportions posed for Jean-Paul Gaudier's new perfume ad, 1999. Her colours – black, white, and bloody red – contrast with the wall's brown and gold.

Below: Coco Chanel in her English Period, wearing a masculine tailoring, 1929. Her style dominated the fashion of the 1920s and the 1930s. In 1954 she created a tweed suit which became a world hit.

spawned tremendous amounts of new wealth, but also brought about widespread misery. Thus canvases from the latter half of the 1800s show crowds with bleak faces and gloomy clothes. The black, brown, and grey colours are those of grief-stricken people. (In Italian Renaissance paintings, they were the colours of mourning and poverty; they represented bourgeois austerity in 17th-century Flemish paintings.)

The latest clothing revolution happened after the First World War. Women cut their skirts and their hair, and under the influence of Frenchwoman Coco Chanel, even the most elegant gave up their corsets. A new woman was born. In the Twenties, her waist was no longer held tight by whale bones but by exercise, and a few decades later, women would be prime ministers.

But while fashion designers constantly renewed women's fashion, men wore the same uniform, suit and tie, or jeans and pullover. Heads of state and blue-collar workers wore more or less the same thing, even though the vast social distance between them remained.

The 19th-century French writer Honoré de Balzac marvelled at the "white and flabby" hand of a thirty-year-old woman who had reached, according to him, the peak of her beauty. Nowadays it is more stylish to have a brown, muscular hand, with just a bit of tennis elbow.

Let's now turn to the future. We notice the recent standardization of men's clothes, but also the strong progress of unisex clothes. Women wear pants and take advantage of the symbolic "privilege" of riding horses

and the ability to move freely, whereas it is a symbolic and actual impediment to wear a skirt, which theoretically calls for a more modest body language.

In spite of this concession to convenience, there are no signs that women will give up ornaments.

The 21st century will probably see the waistline move from the breasts to the hips. The most magnificent materials will sell commercially, while denim – the advent of American gold miner Levi Strauss – will maintain its chic. Strauss's heirs, who mine a "grey" gold in Silicon Valley, will wear jeans, but also offer large diamonds to their wives.

Under dictator Mao Zedong, Chinese men and women were restricted to wearing boiler suits, and women were forbidden to wear makeup. This limit was a sign of oppression. Conversely, ornamentation and burial rites have always been signs of freedom and civilization, and humans will continue to practise both. After all, they have something in common at the end of the second millennium: in the West, fashionable black is the colour of both mourning and sharp fashion.

This black that wraps and surrounds us has to have a meaning. Are we mourning our futile illusions and our failed ideologies? Maybe. But we are also trying to be more simple, to move away from aesthetic concerns, to confine these to the great achievements of the world: the museums, the monuments, the objects.

Wearing black might be the way to better see the colours and the people that surround us. And even if we can't make any reasonably informed speculations about fashion in the year 2050, we can assume that life will not be a bed of roses.



Calvin Klein's ad for the perfume CK One. Men and women use the same perfume and look the same. Klein proposes a unisex fashion.



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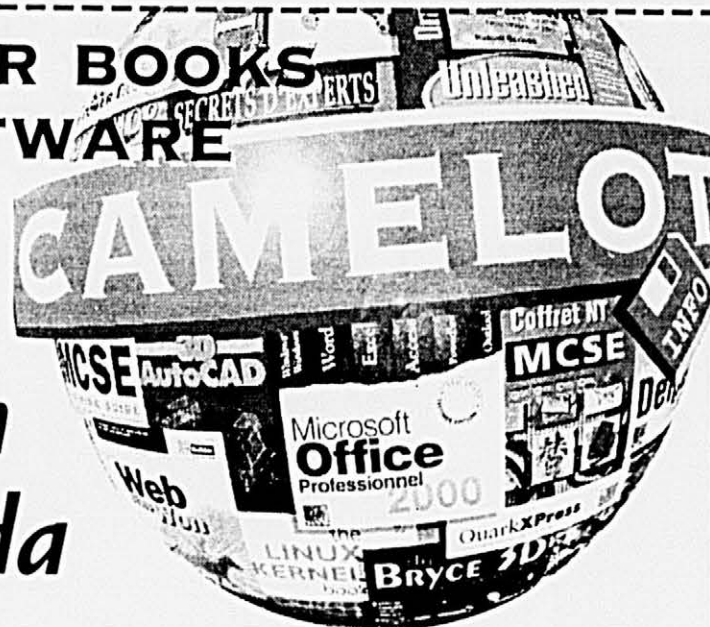
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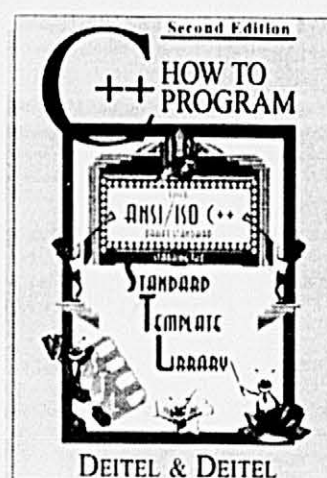
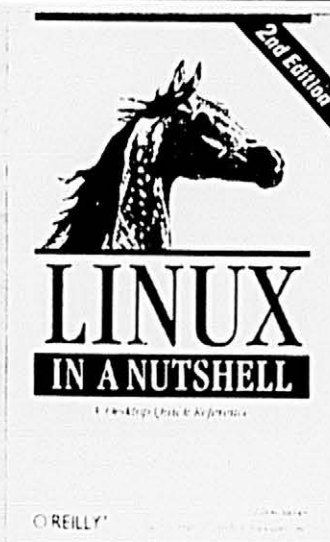


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Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9h00-14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID): \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public: \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

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Memorable Quotes from the Semester That Was

"How can you truly feel that you represent that constituency if they did not put you there?" - Arts Senator Jeff Feiner, commenting on SSMU's plan to appoint senators.

"I'm not a big shot; I'm just a guy in a big position." -SSMU president Andrew Tischler on his date with Jaime Kirzner-Roberts.

"Imagine if you were a victim who was pepper-sprayed and beaten with a baseball bat just because, say, you're Vietnamese, and trying to testify with 25 neo-Nazis staring at you." - Holly, an Anti-Racist Action organizer at the group's October rally at the Palais de Justice.

"Both levels of government are fighting over issues that aren't very relevant to the day-to-day lives of students." - Jean Charest on Quebec's ongoing battle with the federal government over the Millennium Scholarship Fund.

"I was wondering, if I was you boyfriend, could I be the Arts Senator?" - Arts rep Chase Robinson to SSMU VP Xavier Van Chau who heads the Academic Affairs Committee that appointed Van Chau's girlfriend to the vacant Arts Senator seat.

"You should never have sex on E, because nothing will ever be as good." - an anonymous informant describes one of the dangers of the popular rave drug.



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